June 1998

DeafLife

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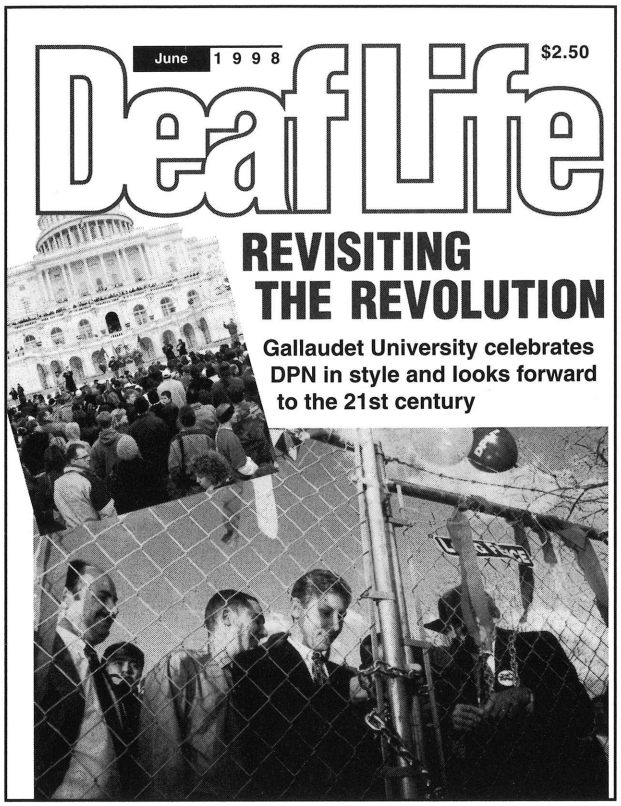
REVISITING THE REVOLUTION

Gallaudet University celebrates DPN in style and looks forward to the 21st century

VOLUME X, NUMBER 12 JUNE 1998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REVISITING THE REVOLUTION
Gallaudet University celebrates DPN in style and looks forward to the 21st century

COVER

DESIGN BY MATTHEW S. MOORE
PHOTO COURTESY OF BUMMY BURSTEIN

SOME THINGS WERE MUCH THE same. The large group of Gallaudet University students, alumni, faculty, staff, friends, children, and old-timers re-enacted the March 1988 lockout of the campus gates, the historic march to the Capitol, the rally, the speeches, the colorful flags and the banners of pride. But this time the weather was chill, the mood was festive, without anger, and Dr. Elisabeth Zinser, whose appointment as Gallaudet's seventh president had incited the uprising, was an honored guest and participant. Our cover feature contains excerpts from Dr. Zinser's thoughtful speech and a photo-essay on DPN 10 events. 10

Publisher's Note

Another DPN cover story? Yup. Dr. Elisabeth Zinser kindly sent us a copy of her March 10th speech. And then we received a packet of good black-and-white photos taken at the march to the Capitol, the evening Gala affair, and Dr. Zinser's visit. Irresistible!

The ongoing trials of the Paoletti family and their associates, accused of running a vicious slavery ring and holding dozens of deaf Mexicans in bondage, have brought in the first convictions. The victims are to be awarded varying amounts from the Paolettis' multi-million-dollar bank account. It's gratifying to know that the money they earned by peddling $1 keychains and other cheap trinkets in the subways, the money that was forcibly taken from them by their cruel "bosses," will be given back to them. Meanwhile, Attorney General Janet Reno has vowed to step up the Department of Justice's efforts to crack down on *all* slavery in the United States. Terrific. Now, if we could just get the media to quit using the terms "deaf and dumb" and deaf-mute" . . .

Our first special DeafChat program, with Meghan Rainone, Miss Deaf America, went very well. We had visitors from several schools around the nation and in Canada, with some old friends and new ones.

We're one month away from our big 10th Anniversary issue. We've got some goodies in store for our readers, and one *very* nice surprise.

And . . . we have some surprises slated for our post-anniversary issues. I hope you'll join us as we enter our eleventh year of publication.

Matthew S. Moore

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Beyond the Envelope

TABLE

■ Progress is made when we take risks and commit ourselves to a vision, a better idea, a fresh possibility. What turn would the history of the U.S. Deaf community have taken if leaders and advocates had spent less time going ahead with new ideas, expanding the role of ASL, and standing up for Deaf people's rights, and more time worrying about what the Hearing community would think of them? Michele Listisard provides some possible scenarios and notes the results. The future doesn't belong to the timid. Are we bold—or afraid? **28**

DeafView
READERS' VIEWPOINT

CAPTIONING "TRASH TV"

■ The overwhelming majority of our 647 "DeafView" respondents (97%) feel that Congress should *not* have the power to decide which TV programs shall be closed-captioned with Federal funding. The majority view is that deaf viewers (not Congress) should exercise the right to decide which programs they can watch. The minority view is that Congress has the responsibility to plan the budget, and that captioning companies have grown too greedy. And none of them are headed by deaf people. **30**

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Deaf Life

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LETTERS

DPN + 10: "a superb job"

Matthew . . . I just got my copy of the March issue of **Deaf Life** and have read it from cover to cover. You and your staff did a superb job on this DPN issue. I thank you for a job well-done!

Mike Kaika
Director of Media Relations
Office of Public Relations
Gallaudet University
Washington, D.C.

A personal light on history

Hi Editor,

I just finished reading your new issue about the Kentucky School for the Deaf's 175th Anniversary, and it has given me goose bumps because my forefathers had attended that school. My great-great-great Uncle Thomas Hoagland, age 30, was one of the first pupils who attended in November, 1823. Unfortunately, he is not mentioned in your issue. I think he was the oldest pupil at the KSD in 1823. He lived until the age of 96 (I think) and died in Deland, Florida in 1885.

Also, my great, great grandfather, William Hoagland, who was the youngest brother of Thomas Hoagland, attended the KSD at the age of 25 in 1826 and stayed there for several years. This is the same year his future wife, Zuelma Kincheloe, attended there at the age of 20. They married after leaving the school. They produced 2 deaf children out of 5, whom one of them was my great-grandfather, Jesse T. K. Hoagland, who attended his parents' alma mater at the age of 9 or 12 and remained there until 16. I believe he stayed there throughout the Civil War. Jesse worked as a printer and [was] married to a deaf lady who was educated at the Indiana School for the Deaf. Jesse was an editor for deaf news for Northern Kentucky area in the **Deaf Mute Journal**, and he was selected one of two persons on a committee by Robert McGregor for planning the 1st National Association of the Deaf in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1880.

My grandfather was hearing but my daddy and mother along with my brother and I went to the Florida School for the Deaf.

I have some Hoagland and Reed relatives attending the KSD over the years. For example, I have 3 living 5th cousins and one 6th cousin—Reed and Hill who attended the KSD.

The article about the history of KSD really helps me to understand my forefathers who went there.

Maryte Hoagland Dyess
Gallaudet University
Washington, D.C.

Editors' note: *Our historical sketch of KSD was by no means complete. Much had to be left out, alas. A reasonably detailed (let alone* complete*) sketch would have required many more pages!*

Greetings from Edmonton, Alberta!

Hi. My name is James Clendennin and I am hard-of-hearing and speaking really good and signing language very good and I would like to chat with deaf people in USA and Canada and our school Alberta School for the Deaf getting technology now and we got few student in our school. I would say Elementary and Jr. and Sr. high school about 90 or 80 and I really worried that Alberta School for the Deaf student because we have few student in there so I want to know if deaf student can come and visit us! Our school have a higher education in Alberta and we really loves to

LETTERS

see deaf and hard-of-hearing because I think, and in Canada was 5 Deaf school have shut down and one is Alberta School for the Deaf and also there in Ontario. So I'm really worried about it. So please come and help us! Thanks, bye from. . .

James Clendennin
Alberta School for the Deaf
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
❖none@epsb.edmonton.ab.ca

Editors' note: *We know that the Jericho Hill School for the Deaf in Vancouver, British Columbia, has been closed. (During the 1960s and early 1970s, students were the victims of widespread physical, emotional, and sexual abuse by the staff and other students. The provincial government recently agreed to grant financial compensation to the victims.) We also know that the R.J.D. Williams Provincial School for the Deaf #221 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, has closed.*

We're not sure about the Manitoba School for the Deaf, or the Sir James Whitney School in Belleville, Ontario, but we do know that the Ernest C. Drury School in Milton, Ontario, ***is*** *alive and well. It has just set up its own Webpage. (See "Bits & Pieces" in this month's "Newsbriefs" in* ***DEAF LIFE Plus*** *for details.)*

"I'm deafness too!"

Mr. Moore—

Hello, my name is K— G— . . . I will pay for July '98 asap. OK. And I sent this to tell you that I really wish I could join with you all for the 10th Anniversary. But I do not have any money. I'm unemployer & single mother with a 9 age son & a 15 age girl so I'm stuck. I really wish to see all deaf, I'm deafness too! My kids aren't deaf. I will miss your anniversary, I'm sure it's gonna be fun!!! Thanks for trying to invite me going there.

P.S. I'm white & 33 age.

K. G.
Little Rock, Arkansas

The Editors reply: *We appreciate the thought!*

Bummy-mania is here!

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your cover story about "Bummy" Burstein. Oh, how it brought back memories of Brooklyn! Rowhouses, corner luncheonettes with big red Coca-Cola "button" signs, cream sodas and 15¢ malteds, sidewalk games like "Skelly," subway trains with woven-cane seats (and no spray-painted graffiti!), hot soft pretzels to go, Nedicks' hot dogs, and the Parachute Jump at Coney Island!

For the past half-century, give or take a decade, our culture has focused on youth. Young people dictate the fashions. Their tastes influence what we see on TV and whose face gets to be on the cover of mainstream magazines. It even extends to what products are offered in the supermarket. (The soft-drink and cold-cereal sections are youth ghettoes!) They play an important role in the video, toy, game, music, sneaker, and software markets. Now, I'm not saying this is all bad. Young people are an important group of citizens and consumers. But my ideal guy is more Paul Newman than Leonardo Di Caprio. I like guys with rumples in their faces. I think crows' feet around the eyes are sexy. White hair is the badge of experience. And I'm still miffed that Crayola retired six wonderful crayon colors in favor of obnoxious hues like hot lime, just because the kiddies wanted brighter colors! (And all along I thought that kids had instinctively good taste. Well!)

With all this emphasis on youth, it's nice to be able to lis-

LETTERS

ten to what the old-timers have to say. Especially when, like Bummy, they have a freshness of spirit that combines old-timers' wisdom with young folks' sense of excitement and adventure and fun.

I find it enlightening to listen to the stories of people who grew up during the Depression and knew what it was like to "do without." They had a clearer idea of what's really important.

It's good that you had a story about someone who has given so much to the Deaf Community. Bummy has a positive attitude, and that's wonderful. It is also rare. I see so much hatred in our community, so much backstabbing, so much jealousy and greed. And it makes me sick. Seeing an article about a fine person like Bummy is good medicine. I love his attitude towards work. He is a real leader. He gets things done. And he does it not by putting down others but by pulling everyone up. I admire what he accomplished with the California Relay Service with the help of good teamwork. Thanks to the DDTP team, California was the first.

Will "Bummy-mania" sweep our community? Will Bummy get a blizzard of invitations to present parli-workshops around the world? I bet my granddaddy's neckties that your cover story will have a good impact. Thank you for sharing Bummy's story with us. And, Bummy, thanks for being you!

Sylvia Froomer
Boston, Massachusetts

All letters must be signed and have a return address. No anonymous (unsigned) letters will be published, but we will withhold your name on request. Send letters to: **DEAF LIFE**, c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380. FAX: 716-442-6371. E-mail: deaflife@deaflife.com

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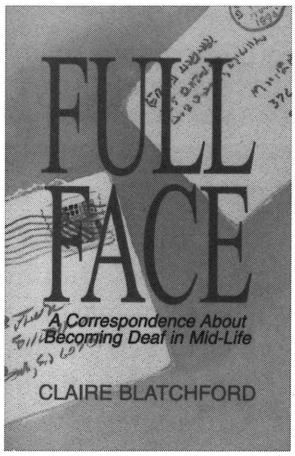
Book Review

Postcards from the edge



Full Face: A Correspondence About Becoming Deaf in Mid-Life. By Claire Blatchford. Hillsboro, Oregon: Butte Publications. 136 pp. $9.95.

The dedication page of this modest little book reads, "To every person struggling with a hearing loss: take heart, you are not alone." That's the essential theme. **Full Face** is an epistolary dialogue—a series of letters and postcards exchanged between the author (who lives in Connecticut and has been deaf since age 6) and "David Reilly," a restaurateur in Tucson, Arizona, who is coping with a progressive hearing loss he can no longer ignore. In her introductory note, Blatchford acknowledges that Reilly is actually a composite of "half-a-dozen people, both men and women." Thus, his letters are mostly fabrications. If this bothers you (shades of Janet Cooke?), you may not want to read further. But if you can accustom yourself to the blend of fiction and nonfiction, you're in for a rewarding excursion.

Reilly comes across as a very real person. Initially reticent and brusque (he confesses he's "not a letter writer"), he gradually opens up, describing his quite normal feelings—frustration at being left out, annoyance at the way others treat him when they see his new hearing aid, longing to communicate better with his wife and grown children, despair over learning that his residual hearing, even after he buys a costly aid, is getting worse.

Blatchford (who admittedly has most of the "good lines"), writes with verve, candor, and empathy. She is the friend every late-deafened adult yearns for. A veteran coper, she provides reassurance, guidance, wisdom, suggestions, insight, and uncommon sense. With irresistible humor and infinite patience, she wins Reilly over. She extends encouragement and support when he finally takes the momentous first step of going to an audiologist. She shares funny, sad, and moving anecdotes with him, and counsels and comforts him through his bleakest moods. As the correspondence progresses, so does their friendship.

Even if you're already familiar with assistive devices and coping strategies, Blatchford's book is valuable. Those who are losing, or who have recently lost, their hearing, will profit most from it. She discusses bluffing, lipreading, TTYs, relay services, closed-captioning, miscommunications, voice quality, speech therapy, and sign language. Her attitude towards ASL is positive and enlightened. Both she and Reilly play piano; both discuss their multisensory enjoyment of music. She writes: "I've often found listening to music an intensely visual experience. Rippling sounds call up images of water; soaring sounds bring birds and flight to mind; deep, low sounds can make me think of footsteps, shadowy forests, mysterious caverns."

Other topics include intuition and ESP, faith healing, miracles, the cochlear implant (Reilly is desperate enough to investigate but flunks out), anger, wanting to be useful, working out a strained relationship, hitting bottom. And taking life "Full Face."

"Full Face" is Blatchford's own term for being upfront about being deaf, needing to have an unobstructed view of the person she's communicating with, and acquiring the courage to be honest about her communication needs. Taking the Full Face approach has sharpened her perceptions: picking up nonverbal cues, signals, nuances; really *seeing* faces, eyes, and hands. I especially enjoyed her insights: "Deafness, for me, has never meant silence. . . . For me, real silence is a rare and wonder-filled thing. It is golden, spacious, unhurried, timeless." And "Physical deafness, no matter how painful the situations it can put one in, need not be considered a misfortune. It can be an opportunity." She sees herself "as a person first." A whole person.

Readers (particularly those who have been using ASL all their lives and eschew amplification) may find this little book irrelevant. I found it fascinating, and was sorry it . . . just ended.

by Linda Levitan

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY™

What concerns, problems, or suggestions do deaf people have that are directly related to law enforcement?

—submitted by Deputy **Julie Linder** (Bakersfield, California)*

Several issues that concern us are: 911 access; being able to establish clear communication with police and other law-enforcement authorities when giving testimony as crime victims or eyewitnesses, or being questioned, detained, or arrested (and being provided with a sign-language interpreter if the occasion warrants); getting fair treatment by highway police and county prosecutors; confidentiality of TTY transcripts used as evidence; and equal access as participants in courtroom proceedings—whether as plaintiffs, defendants, witnesses, attorneys, or jury members.

Everyone knows the horror stories (unfortunately true) about Deaf people shot by burglars or muggers because the perps didn't realize their victims were deaf. There have been several verified reports of gang violence against innocent Deaf people because the ASL signs used by the victims resembled handsigns used by rival gang members.

One of the biggest problems we face is not being able to secure an interpreter when we need one. The agencies that have the responsibility to safeguard the public haven't always been responsive. In 1992, an innocent deaf man, James Kennard Thompson of Nashville, was arrested on an outstanding rape warrant and jailed for a week before the sheriff's office realized they had the wrong guy. (They were looking for a criminal named James Edward Thompson.) Thompson bought a $1 million lawsuit against the city for not providing an interpreter in night court.

Such suits underscore the urgent need for better police/Deaf-community relations. We've seen an upsurge in the number of lawsuits filed under the Americans with Disabilities act and other civil-rights legislation against businesses, cities, and law-enforcement agencies, by deaf people who have been victimized. Some of these cases have made headlines. Despite the recent proliferation of frivolous lawsuits in our suit-happy society, we see this as a healthy trend. Deaf people are refusing to be intimidated. They are serving notice that mistreatment that might have been silently endured a few decades ago, for lack of recourse, will no longer be tolerated. They are demanding respect as first-class citizens.

Trouble is, a lot of law-enforcement officials still haven't gotten the message. All deaf people, it seems, have their "cop horror sto-

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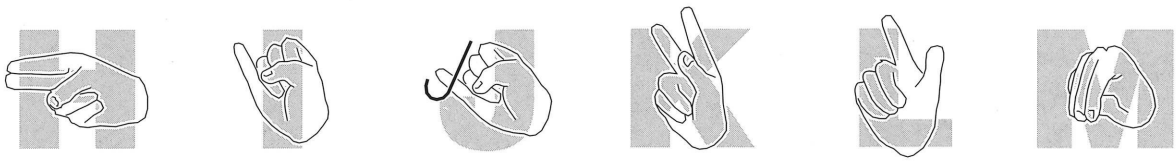

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ries": encounters with impatient, nasty, and brutal police officers, especially on highway patrol. In Spring 1997, for example, "Alan," a Deaf friend of ours who had recently moved to Indianapolis (which boasts a large Deaf community and a number of police with signing skills) and was still finding his way around, was driving home late one night from a bowling tourney and inadvertently made a wrong turn in a dark tunnel. The "NO LEFT TURN" sign that was supposed to warn him wasn't clearly visible. He was treated to a terrifying outburst of anger (and a $95 ticket) by the traffic policeman who stopped him. Alan did everything he could to cooperate, but wasn't shown the slightest bit of civility. This was *not*, alas, an isolated incident.

What can be done? Plenty! William B. "Duke" Whiteside, Community Policing Project Coordinator at the National League of Cities, has written an instructive article, "Bridging the Gap: Community Policing and Working with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing." For the following list, we've borrowed a suggestion or two from Duke Whiteside (who has borrowed one or two from us).

Ten things law-enforcement officers can do to improve relations with the Deaf community (and prevent costly lawsuits):

- Learn at least a dozen or two basic signs and phrases: *hello, what's wrong?, where? who?, name, right, wrong, right, left, problem, sign, license, car, drive, road, ticket, speeding, law, drinking, fight, arrest, jail, emergency, danger, warn, safe, rights,* etc.
- Learn fingerspelling, which is a tremendously useful thing for *anyone* to know (e.g., being able to communicate cogently with someone who's choking).
- Understand our need to have fair and accessible communication, a right accorded to hearing citizens. Be patient when dealing with persons whose primary mode of communication is American Sign Language. Be willing to use pad-and-paper to communicate. Even if officers don't know how to communicate with Deaf people, a modicum of patience and sensitivity can make a big difference.
- Be responsible enough to summon a qualified sign-language interpreter when the situation requires it. (Of course, not all situations permit, but most of the time, it's feasible.)
- If Deaf suspects need to be physically restrained, conventional handcuffs should not be used, except as a last resort. An alternative form of restraint that allows the detainee sufficient freedom to sign is preferable.
- In cities or regions with sizable Deaf populations, *all* law-enforcement personnel who have contact with the public should take a "Basic Sign Skills and Deaf Communication" course, and to keep their skills sharp with periodic refresher courses and practice—and contact with Deaf people.
- There should be an official liaison to the Deaf community.
- All police departments should have copies of valuable resources that are produced and made available by other police departments: e.g., videotapes and pamphlets.
- Beware of bad attitudes and brutes on the force. If officers don't have respect for the citizens they're supposed to protect, if they can't reciprocate the basic courtesy shown to them, if they are the furious, impatient, Raging Bull type, they shouldn't be out on patrol.
- Encourage deaf people to get involved—by volunteering on citizens' neighborhood patrols, working as police auxiliaries, and even entering the police force. Visit high schools and programs for the deaf. Present a positive image—and an open door. Law enforcement should be a viable career option for deaf people. There is much that they *can* do.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the ninth question from DeAnn Sampley's students at Bakersfield College. Our thanks to Ms. Sampley and her students.

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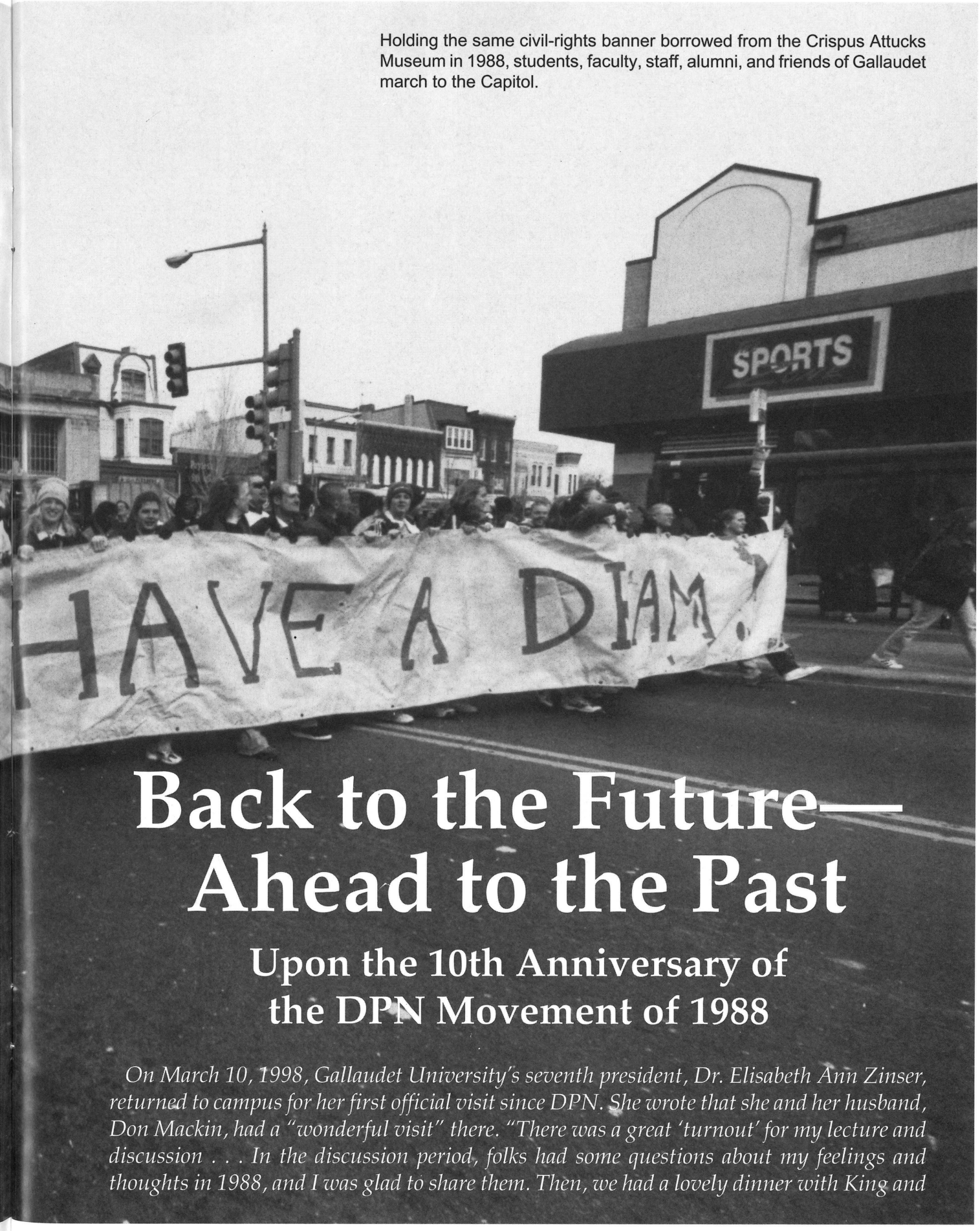


Holding the same civil-rights banner borrowed from the Crispus Attucks Museum in 1988, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Gallaudet march to the Capitol.

Back to the Future—Ahead to the Past

Upon the 10th Anniversary of the DPN Movement of 1988

On March 10, 1998, Gallaudet University's seventh president, Dr. Elisabeth Ann Zinser, returned to campus for her first official visit since DPN. She wrote that she and her husband, Don Mackin, had a "wonderful visit" there. "There was a great 'turnout' for my lecture and discussion . . . In the discussion period, folks had some questions about my feelings and thoughts in 1988, and I was glad to share them. Then, we had a lovely dinner with King and

Students and alumni re-enact the locking of the campus gates (symbolizing the shutdown of Kendall Green) 10 years ago.

Linda Jordan, and finished the evening with all four of us going to the panel discussion presented by three of the four student leaders (all alumni, 10 years out, now), and a videotaped discussion with the one who could not make the trip. All four of them are doing very well, as you know. It was wonderful for me to visit with them and to have King, me and all three of them gather for happy photos."

Here's are some excerpts from her speech.

My husband, Don Mackin, and I are thrilled to be invited by President Jordan to join you in the commemoration of DPN's 10th anniversary. We're glad for our private time with King and Linda Jordan—to chat about the lives of university presidents, our families, and our hopes for higher education. Don is delighted to see first-hand this community of which I speak so often. And, I am honored to be welcomed here so warmly.

Thank you for inviting me to share some thoughts today, as part of a many-faceted program of opportunities to remember DPN, to reflect upon the achievements of the decade, and to consider implications for fu-

ture academic work that lies ahead. To begin, I offer a personal comment.

I remain grateful for your understanding that my aspiration in 1988 and in 1998 was and is for Gallaudet University to succeed in its complex and unique mission. And indeed it is!

As a participant in the drama of the DPN revolution, I never viewed DPN as a personal rejection. Instead, in those turbulent days, I saw the imperative for a "deaf president now (not later)." I'm proud that I was able to quickly under-

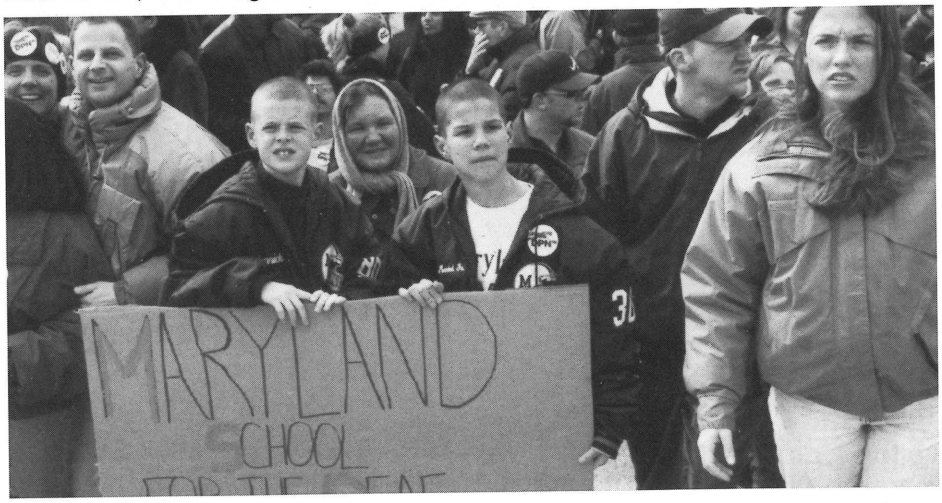
Dr. Jordan, at right, prepares to lead the march to the Capitol. Nearby (in dark coat) is Greg Hlibok. Everyone is bundled up against the bitter cold.

About 2,500 people—a crowd four blocks long—participated in the march. In the background is a sign carried by students from Maryland School for the Deaf. Note the "We still have a dream" and NAD banners—and the Rollerblader.

Another view of the march. Two young marchers carry "DPN" signs: "DPN 10/Deaf President Now" and"Dr. Jordan functions well. Deaf can do it!"

Students, teachers, alumni, children, the young and the old—all took turns in holding the flags made for DPN 10.

Three of the four student leaders from the 1988 uprising: Tim Rarus, Bridgetta Bourne-Firl, and Greg Hlibok.



Several schools for the deaf joined the march. In the background are signs reading "Deaf + Hearing = Human" and "TDDS ARE IMPORTANT."

stand the situation and become part of the solution.

Not long after the events of DPN, I discovered the rightful confidence you vested in I. King Jordan and have been very confident and happy about the outcome ever since. Visiting the campus a year later and having dinner with King and Linda Jordan led to a new friendship.

As you know, I've lived long enough and worked hard enough to have a number of "credentials." The one in which I take the greatest personal pride was given to me by deaf and hard-of-hearing people in 1988—the assignment of my very own ASL namesign—an "E" over the heart.

Views of DPN

Having told you a little about how I feel, I'll offer some thoughts about DPN and Gallaudet University's leadership position and future opportunities. My theme is *"Back to the Future —Ahead to the Past."* What do I mean?

Many of your are too young to remember the movie ***Back to the Future,*** unless seeing it with modern captioning on video. A boy was taken to the future in a fast-forward time machine. He returned to life in his time having been changed by his glimpse into the future. I use this image to celebrate those who led DPN by taking us on a fast-forward journey to a hopeful vision of the future, and then returning to "normal life" on campus forever changed by this historical passage to liberation.

There is no movie called ***Ahead to the Past,*** so I'll make it up.

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The boy was inspired by his trip to the future, so he set out to lead others forward to the best of what he had found, bypassing the worst be had seen. I use this image to celebrate President I. King Jordan and the Gallaudet community for leading the way to achieve the beliefs set forth in the past by DPN.

Going ***Back to the Future***, let's look at DPN for its historic significance. I join many speakers who will do so. What was DPN?

• DPN was an American event of major proportions. It created the environment for passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. It opened hearts and minds to the imperative of equal access for people of different abilities and ways of moving and communicating.

• DPN was an international experience, washing an ocean of fresh water across the world in redefining who we can be as societies with the full participation of deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

• DPN also was about Gallaudet University's leadership—its leadership mission as the beacon of possibility and opportunity, as the principal source for knowledge by, for, and about deaf and hard-of-hearing people, and as a place of discovery, innovation, and learning in areas of academic excellence shared in common with other distinguished universities.

Through DPN, deaf and hard-of-hearing people everywhere told the world that they will not remain oppressed by the shackles of prejudice. Through DPN, you created an agenda for the future—

• a future where the abilities, aspirations, and hard work of deaf and hard-of-hearing people earn them equitable opportunities with those of hearing people,

• a future where the special experiences, perspectives, and languages of deaf and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

hard-of-hearing people are respected,

• a future where the whole of society has learned how much better off it is when deaf and hearing people live, work, and study together with deep appreciation and a commitment to share in the creation of a common universe of ideas and of community.

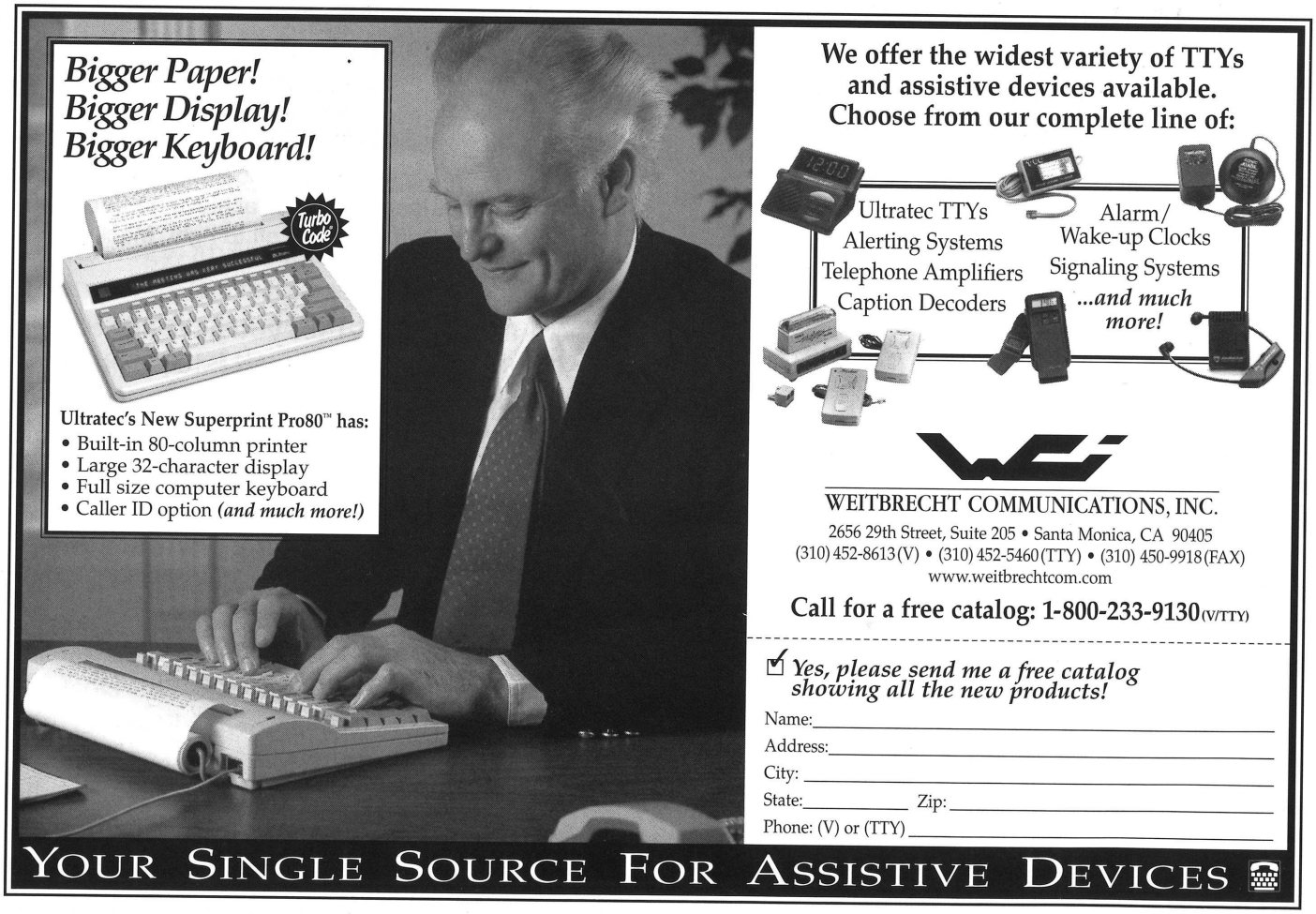
So, looking back, we see DPN is a historic revolution to be recorded and studied in a scholarly way, an event to be remembered with admiration.

Now, looking ***Ahead to the Past*** — looking forward, DPN is a concept—an ideal even bigger than what teas been achieved thus far. It is an ideal of great inspiration to deaf end hard-of-hearing people in particular; and it is a source of enlightenment for all of us, for the whole of society. We discover that society is strongest when it develops and uses the full potential of human beings, including talents that emerge from our unique and varied qualities.

By internalizing DPN as a ideal, we take it forward into the future—on fast-forward like a time machine.

Gallaudet's future-oriented educational leadership is transforming DPN from an event of the past to a sustainable ideal. In this way, DPN is placed in front of us and we move ahead to reach its greatest purpose—full participation of deaf and hard-of-hearing people in all facets of American life, institutions, and leadership.

DPN set the stage for Gallaudet University to assume a new position of world-wide institutional leadership in the deaf community and a new position of national leadership in American higher education. President I. King Jordan commanded that stage with his extraordinary personal style to prepare the script and provide the direction forward. He has achieved great progress for this University and will continue to do so, relying heavily on your full participation in the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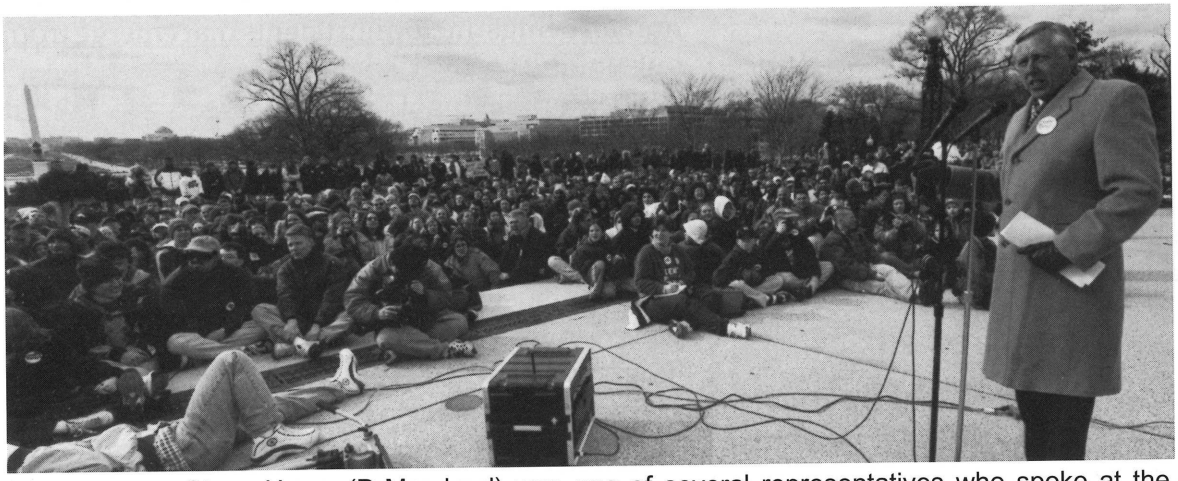
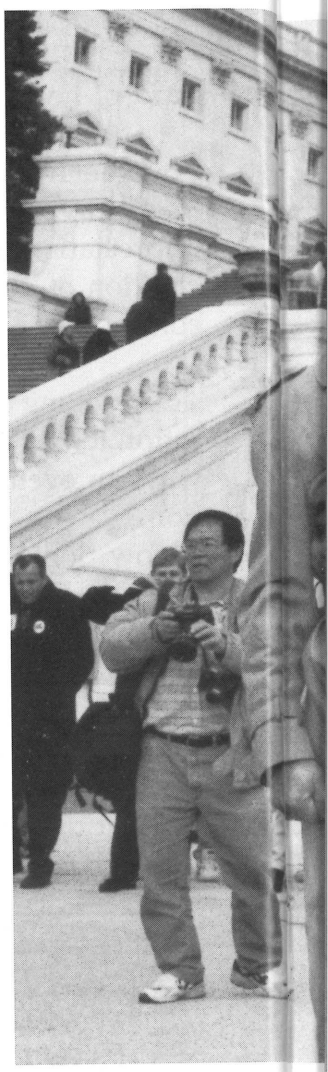


Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland) was one of several representatives who spoke at the Capitol.



Dr. Elisabeth Zinser participated in the DPN 10 celebration. She shared some of her reflections about being in the "eye of the storm" during the protest and congratulated President Jordan and other campus leaders for their achievements on behalf of the University over the past decade. She was accompanied by her husband, Don Mackin. Left to right: Mackin, Linda Jordan, Dr. Zinser, and Dr. Jordan.

life of this University. Your progress of the past decade foreshadows a bright future for the achievements of the next decade.

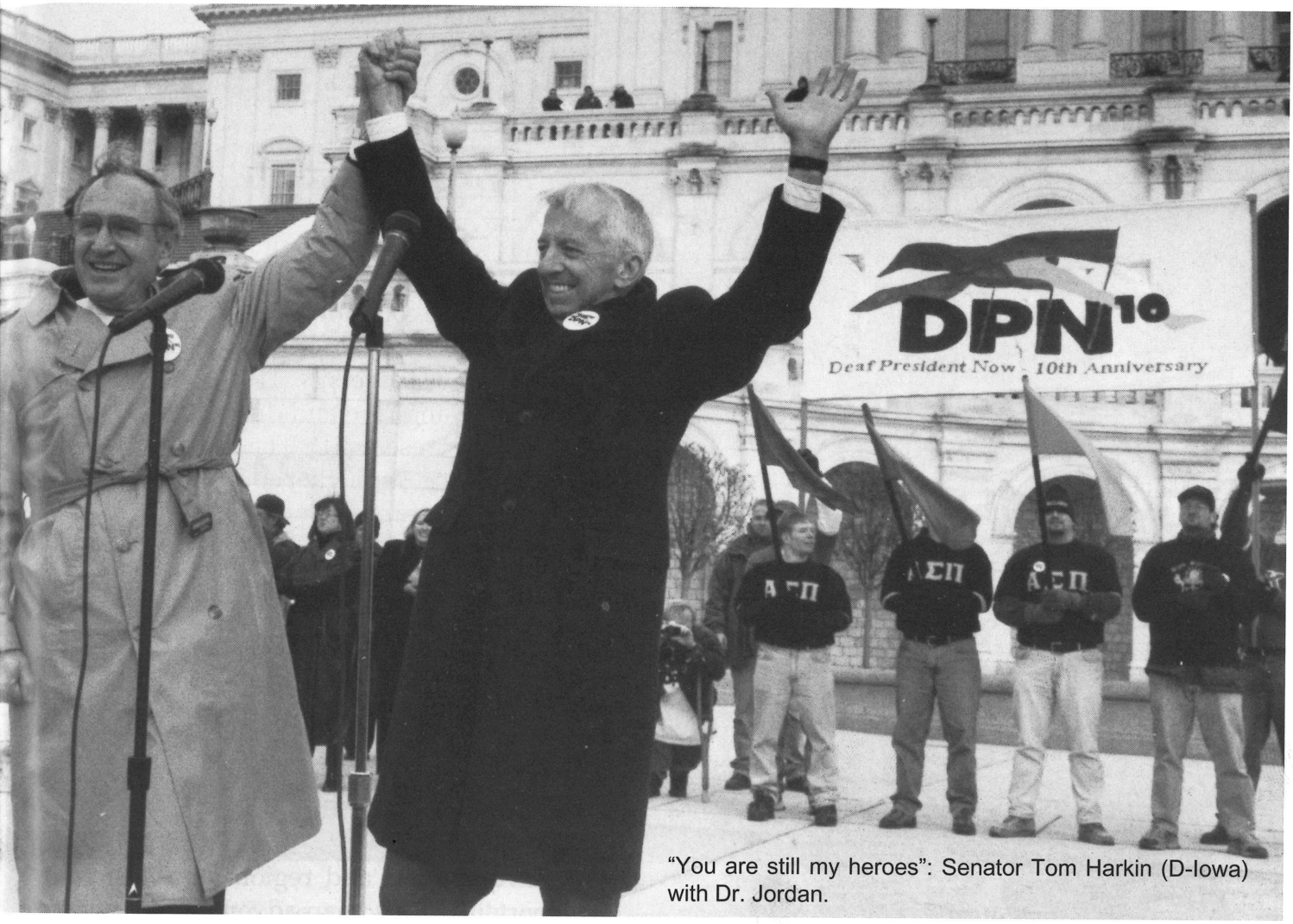
It seems appropriate now for me to offer some of my thoughts on Gallaudet's position in the higher-education community—now and into the future.

[Dr. Zinser described what she admired about Gallaudet University, its mission and importance, and suggested some things it could do to become even more influential, through research, partnerships, and teaching, for example. She discussed "Ernest Boyer's model of scholarship—the four scholarships of discovery, integration, application, and teaching" as they apply to Gallaudet.]

I'm impressed by the progressive development of doctoral programs. I see you have added three since 1988: Ph.D. programs in Education (1989), Clinical Psychology (1990), and Audiology (1998). as well as Master programs in Mental Health Counseling, Administration, Speech-Language Pathology, Interpreting, Social Work (MSW). (...)

I see Gallaudet commanding a world-class position in communication studies, research, and technology development. Communication is more than speech and hearing—it is seeing and listening, understanding and expressing. Deaf and hard-of-hearing people know this better than hearing people.

Gallaudet is already a leader in visual learning and communications. Your School of Communication and Center for American Sign Language have achieved strong recognition and set the stage



"You are still my heroes": Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) with Dr. Jordan.

for even greater ascension in communication studies.

Technology applications in communication, teaching, and learning are opening the door of access and opportunities wider than ever. Stephen Hawking's use of the voice synthesizer is a very public example. It seems to me that Gallaudet can do well seeking government and corporate support to become a national center of excellence in research about human communication and communication technologies, building on the expertise here already.

Faculty have tremendous support in the Department of Academic Technology and the nationally recognized Technology Assistance Program. Students are learning to use multimedia by participating in award-winning productions. The foundation of interest and growing support is evident. (...)

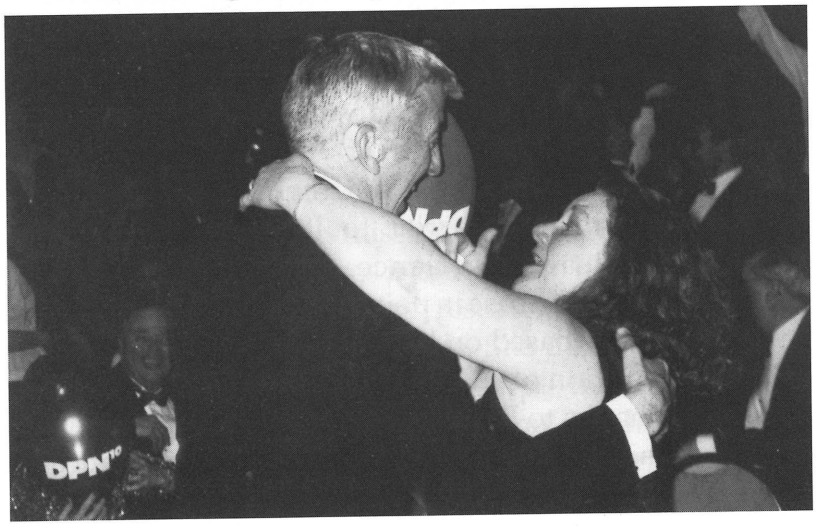
Cultural studies and linguistics are targets of opportunity here. I wish for you the achievement of world-class recognition for your work in cultural linguistics and cultural studies. It seems to me that Gallaudet has a great "competitive advantage" in these areas.

Linguistics, or the study of human language, is moving into dialectology—the study of "home languages" or dialects. We are seeing more scholarly interest in Appalachian English, Southern Rural English, Outer Banks English, and Black English or Ebonics. Many dialects live and thrive in different cultures of American society. We don't know a lot about them, which creates a fundamental barrier to finding our common American experience. Controversies about Ebonics is a case in point of social and educational barriers based on lack of understanding and appreciation of cultural dialects.

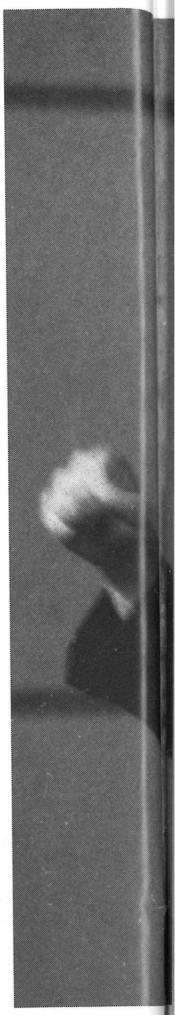
Thanks to DPN, fascination with ASL as a language, its many dialects and its conveyance of culture, has grown. But, much work is ahead before the public understands the value of ASL

About 2,000 people attended the evening Gala. After the program concluded, hundreds of balloons were released from the ceiling.

Three charming ladies caught the eye of the photographer.



Not tired yet: Dr. Jordan and his wife, Linda, on the dance floor.



for communication and educational purposes, as well as for personal expression and cultural meaning.

There are alternative perspectives to viewing the world of languages. The study of languages and dialects from the cultural perspective is fundamental to our American consciousness about the greatest asset in our society—our cultural diversity. The "politics" of language and dialects is an area of research that has direct significance for higher education and American society. Research about American dialects deals directly with issues of language power, and the way it plays out in cultural and class power.

I can well imagine that Gallaudet's expertise with ASL and its cultural meanings form a foundation on which to build a leadership position in many forms of communication that have cultural and regional importance. This is an advantage to seize for Gallaudet's developments in research. (...)

Gallaudet has the best opportunity of any institution I know for longitudinal research about human development and learning over a lifetime. While educating enrolled students, your schools are laboratories for the finest scholars of human development and pedagogy.

Across the spectrum through the doctorate, Gallaudet is positioned among the foremost institutions in special education. Its core strength is in education for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, and this expertise is a foundation for expanding to national recognition for research and teaching in special education for those who communicate, move, and/or learn uniquely.

As we discover how varied human beings are in our styles of learning, and

Dr. Zinser responds to a question from the audience.

as we develop more sophisticated learning technologies to support individualized study, Gallaudet could position itself to emerge as one of the top public research universities in the scholarship of human development, teaching, and learning, especially in visual teaching and learning. (...)

Upon this 10th anniversary of DPN, we celebrate the insight and judgment shown by many who played leadership roles in that time of change. Such traits are evident also in the actions of the past decade to uplift this institution in its academic strengths and to improve its position in higher education and society. This is a university of character and substance.

Even more than celebrating the past, this week is about framing a vision of the future and placing Gallaudet squarely in that picture. Because the seeds of the communication age are planted, this is a time for the knowledge society to blossom. Thus, I believe we can for the first time in history have confidence in a truly hopeful vision of society—if we are willing to work hard for it within and outside our institutions of higher learning, using new tools and ways of doing business and new partnerships with other organizations. (...)

I wish you well as you move forward with the lessons of the past and a hopeful vision for the future. Gallaudet's place in such a vision is stronger than ever. The will to do the work is high. The fun is knowing you are making a difference for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, for education at all levels, and for the welfare of society.

I close by quoting Vice President Roslyn Rosen, who said that "Gallaudet upholds universal higher-education goals and standards while remaining faithful to its unique mission and vision." This is why my interest in Gallaudet's work will remain high always.

—Dr. Elisabeth Zinser
Chancellor, University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Deaf Life Photos courtesy of Gallaudet University's Office of Public Relations

Cultural Invasion: The Way of the

Human existence cannot be silent, nor can it be nourished by false words, but only by true words, with which men transform the world To exist, humanly is to name the world, to change it. . . Men are not built in silence, but in word, in work in action-reflection."

—Paulo Friere, **Pedagogy of the Oppressed**

An article in the March Issue of **Deaf Life**, "'The Response Has Been Astonishing,'" about a $1.3 million grant through Star Schools to establish a model bilingual ESL program, describes a great plan with excellent goals, but very little specific explanations, or concise definition of "bi-bi." As a Deaf professional from the field, I am very concerned and have learned to be mindful of details behind concealed meaning.

I have worked a long time (15 years) as teacher in deaf education. What Paulo Friere terms *cultural invasion* operates in systems where the *steering team* for core developments do not include a balanced quantity of key members to reflect student populations. In this project one of the schools has a large number of Hispanic and Native American deaf students, but no *deaf* Hispanic professionals on the team.

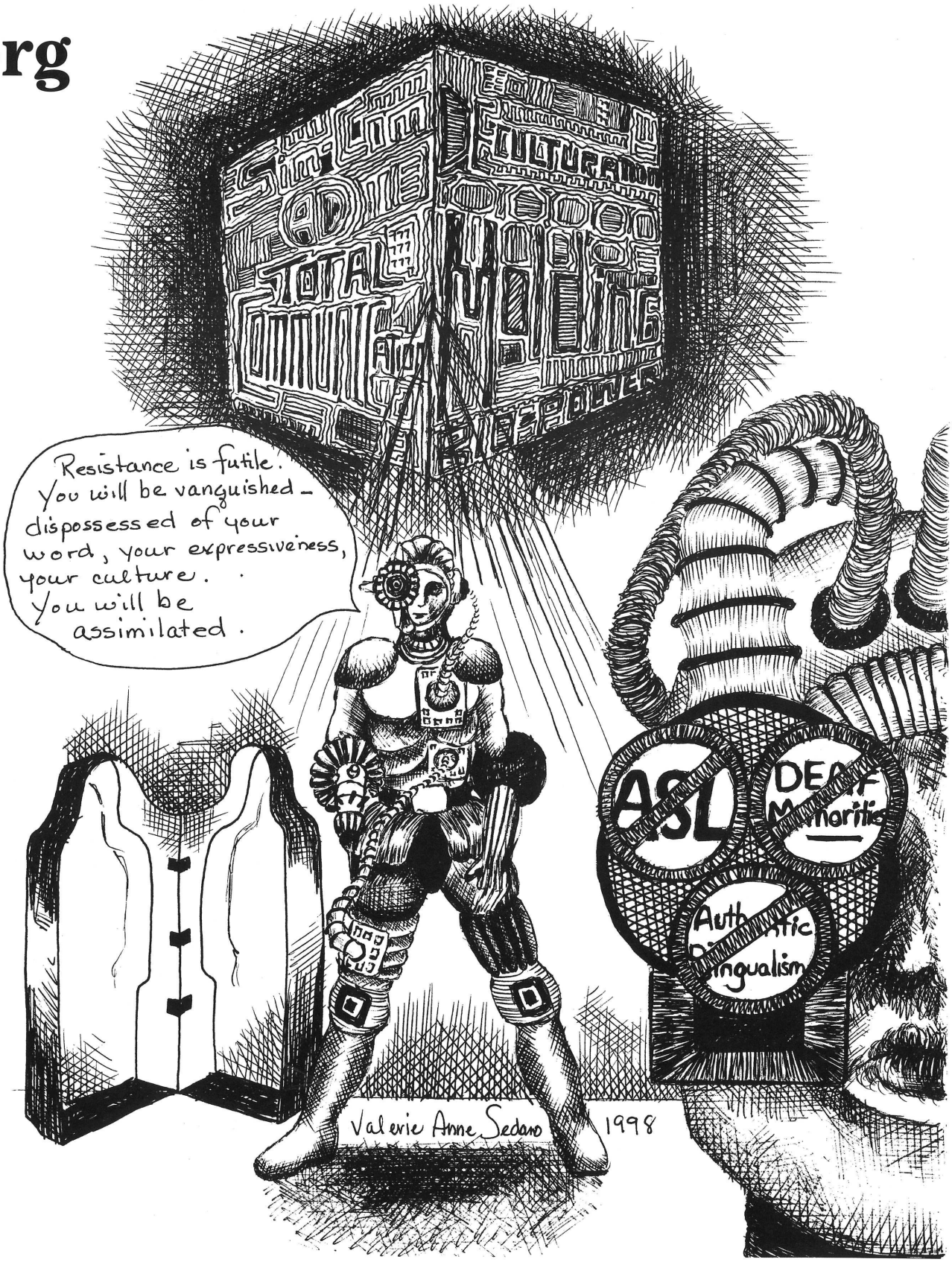
"Cultural invasion" can be the "way of the Borg" (not obviously nor intentionally) by assimilating into their mold. (The Borg are a robotic species of aliens in the ***Star Trek: The Next Generation*** TV series who assimilate all species without giving any consideration to their culture, customs, and language. Whatever cultural values a species may possess are assimilated into the Borg mold. A metaphor that I am aware is not positive, but candidly observable at one specific project site. To put on blinders on my part would be shameful for I am *Deaf Hispanic*.

As a *Deaf Hispanist*, I believe dialogue is basic to wholesome culture-sensitive developments. This article hopes to open up dialogue. So projects such as Star Schools, with worthy intentions to nourish *Deaf* and other ethnic traditions of students, cannot be in an idle position about including or not including the diverse professional adult archetypes. Especially in the workgroups of *#3 Staff Development Resources* (one of the goals in that article, 3/98 issue). From that article some points will be raised about how cultural invasion can happen, based on Paulo Friere's insights in **Pedagogy of the Oppressed**. *Cultural invasion* is defined as:

> [L]ike divisive tactics and manipulation serve the ends of conquest . . . the invaders penetrate the cultural context of another group, in disrespect of the latter's potentialities; they impose their own view of the world upon those they invade and inhibit the creativity of the invaded by curbing their expression.
>
> [I]n cultural invasion the invaders are the authors of, and actors in, the process; those they invade are the objects . . . The invaders mold; those they invade are molded. The invaders choose; those they invaded follow that choice—or are expected to follow it. The invaders act; those they invade have only the illusion of acting, through the action of the invaders.—Paulo Friere

FEW MORE WORDS

Borg



How does the above observation link goal #3 and the Borg? Invaders, like the Borg, are a select cast. Thus schools with a large student population of deaf Hispanics and Native Americans that do not include adult archetypes of their ethnicity experience invasion because the students must model that selective group. History is replete with instances of steering teams that do not include authentic ethnic and Deaf center archetypes, will molding, choosing, and steering to the likeness of team members. High context perceptions tell me that each site needs to search out local professional resources to assure inclusion of ethnic archetypes.

But reading between the lines, [I see that] the "eighteen teachers participating in seminars at their school" are steered by facilitators that do not include (Deaf) Hispanic surnames or backgrounds—but do include a large number of Anglo-ethnocentric surnames. Additionally, members of the team include strong proponents, whom I have worked with in the past, of simultaneous communication. It is a subtle invasion (to quote Friere), *"camouflaged with the invader assuming the role of a helping friend."* With few practitioners of the ASL "bi-bi," it looks like camouflage. Plus not enough, or lack of, students' ethnic archetypes of student's ethnicity who are Deaf gives me, a Deaf professional, sensible reasons to raise my eyebrows and ask rhetorical questions.

Do seminar teachers and facilitators include representatives of ethnic groups who will present legitimate challenges to established ideas from their own insight and knowledge in each of the sites? No. Do trainees include deaf who follow the values, standards, and the goals of the invaders? Possibly. Does the core steering team represent the essential quantity of diverse ethnic populations who are also Deaf? No.

Harsh though these impressions may be, it is prudent to be realistic—or repeat the never-ending cycle of oppression and student failure. Being careful in creating education programs for young deaf children is no small matter. It has been documented in the Commission on the Education of the Deaf report of 1988, which points out that professional archetypes are *very* important. Recommendations that seriously mirror commitment to a cause!

However, during two years of employment at one of the sites of the project, I was vocal about recommendations made in the 1988 **COED Report**. However, I was often summarily dismissed (like the Borg's *"Resistance is futile!"*) as insignificant by members of this project's steering team. As an example, the introduction to the **COED Report** explicitly states 12 reasons where failure in deaf education lies. Among them is failure to:

> * engage the active participation of parents and persons who are deaf—***including those from various minority and ethnic groups***—in the decision-making processes (page ix). [Emphasis added.]

A study of that site's lead team of the Star Program makes me recall my passionate efforts to sincerely and professionally bring attention to the shortcomings of MCE simultaneous communication styles, based on a variety of professional observations and research quoted from a) the **COED Report** and b) **Unlocking the Curriculum**:

> a) ASL should not be confused with manually coded English sign systems—e.g. Signing Exact English, Seeing Essential English—which are not languages but which are used in educational settings... (**COED**, page 16)

> b) Since the 1970's, most deaf students have been educated in Total Communication programs in which some form of signing and speech is used simultaneously for communication and instructional purposes. Despite improvements in the development of tests, early intervention or preschool programs, most students are still functionally illiterate upon graduation from high school. (Paul, 1988:3)

Trying to support my agreement with the above observations on 13 years experience in teaching English, reading, literature to deaf children, and ASL to hearing middle and high-school students was not to be taken seriously. Logical dialogue was scorned, as if to say once again, "Resistance is

futile." The irony is that now those who have put down and undermined those perceptions for a genuine bilingual ASL/ESL education are engaging leadership roles on those viewpoints! It may not be ironic, though. It could actually be the appropriate behavior of invaders. How? Friere gives a logical insight into this disposition:

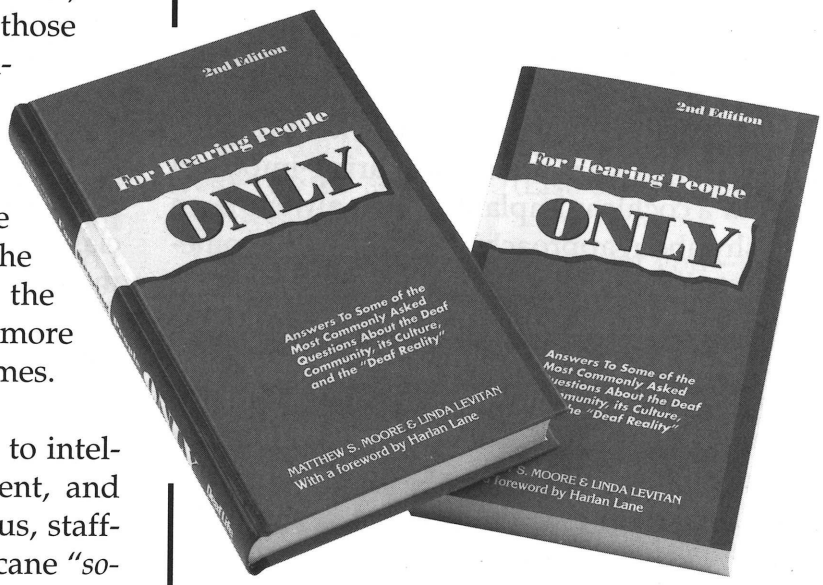
> In their passion to dominate, to mold others to their patterns and their way of life, the invaders desire to know how those they have invaded apprehend reality—but only so they can dominate the latter more effectively. In cultural invasion, it is essential that those who are invaded come to see their reality with the outlook of the invaders rather than their own; for the more they mimic the invaders, the more stable the position of the latter becomes.

Education of children is fundamental to intellectual liberation, cognitive development, and shaping the permanence of culture. Thus, staff-development resources cannot be an arcane "*social structure*" by being "*rigid and oppressive*" which "*necessarily influences the institutions of child rearing and education within the structure*" (Friere). Logically, deliberate inclusion of appropriate ethnic representation within the school, or the community (all schools are microcosms of a larger community), must include diverse ethnic Deaf. If, on rigid judgments that available archetypes do not fit the mold because of current planning stages, it will imply "*disrespect for their potentialities*" by the team's "*own choosing*."

Unchallenged, the characteristics of cultural invaders "*will prepare the invaders of the future.*" On the above points, I would like to invite open dialogue with the planning team of the article, "'The Response Has Been Astonishing.'" Hopefully this invitation will not solidify the Borg mindset, because teaching deaf children as a profession is precarious today.

—Ralph (Rafael) Sedano
Santa Fe Community College
Santa Fe, New Mexico

FOR HEARING PEOPLE ONLY—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DEAR GABBY:

I'm a magazine illustrator who also paints book covers for romance novels, and I met this really hot dame at the annual convention of the Romance Writers of America. I'm hearing-impaired and wear a cochlear implant, so I've always been a little shy about approaching women. But something just clicked between us when we first met. I don't want you to think that I'm bragging, but she couldn't seem to get enough of me after that first kiss—she was really aroused and kept kissing me over and over during the convention. We had such an insanely great time, we got married shortly after; and everything was just dandy up until a few months ago, when the Cochlear-O-Rama Company sent me a letter stating that they were recalling a few of their old implants because of some kind of flaw that I really don't remember. Since the surgeons opened up my skull again and put in the new device, I no longer have this slight but annoying buzzing noise in my head, but my wife has been acting strange. She's been cool to me ever since I got my implant fixed, and I don't understand it. Help!

—FRUSTRATED

DEAR FRUSTRATED:

Since you met your quondam° inamorata° at a convention of romance writers, undoubtedly she's an enthusiastic reader of that dreck° with its absurd scenes such as "She felt an erotic tingle all over her body when the tall, dark, handsome stranger tenderly kissed her on her quivering lips." Actually, the "erotic tingle" on her lips that your wife liked so much, was primarily due to a mild electric shock that stimulated her nervous system every time she kissed you, because of a faultily wired cochlear implant. If the Cochlear-O-Rama Company won't replace your new implant with the old flawed model, you can sue their socks off for alienation of affections!

—GABBY

DEAR GABBY:

I'm a Hearing college student and taking ASL classes as part of my foreign language requirement. It's my favorite subject! I've been thinking about becoming a sign-language interpreter, but I may have to change my career plans after seeing a National Theater of the Deaf production a few months ago that played at my college's auditorium. The costumes were beautiful and the action was dazzling, but I couldn't understand most of the actors' signs! Is something wrong with me, or with my ASL teacher?

—PUZZLED

DEAR PUZZLED:

Many Hearing people like you have wondered why they often don't see the same ASL signs they learned in class? Relax, dearie. Nothing's wrong with your memory or your class. What you observed is a common phenomenon called the "Woodward Shift," akin° to the Doppler effect.° Gallaudet professor of linguistics James Woodward has pointed out that in any social encounter between Deaf and Hearing people, Deaf signers will shift along a continuum from ASL to English, with most using Pidgin Sign English or ASL signs in English word order. This "diglossia"° ensures that Hearing "outsiders" can't so easily pick up ASL and then use it to manipulate the Deaf community in harmful ways. So when Deaf actors get onstage and feel hundreds of prying Hearing eyes on them, they're compelled by the "Woodward Shift" hard-wired into their brains, and despite all their rigorous training in the NTD's educational programs, lapse into incomprehen-

sible signs. But fret not! The NTD's managers have asked Congress for a million-dollar grant to develop a nasal inhaler that Deaf actors can use to inhibit the Woodward Shift whenever they face a Hearing audience.

—GABBY

DEAR GABBY:

I love my wife, but we seem to get stuck in the silliest arguments over the most trivial things. Lately she's been bugging me about putting the toilet seat down after every time I use the bathroom, and nothing I say will persuade her to change her mind. If I say she should be glad I've got a good aim and don't spatter the area, she gets furious, and when I bring in Doctor Freud about the real basis of women's envy—*wooo!* She won't speak to me for several days! Any suggestions?

—BUSTED FLUSH

DEAR BUSTED FLUSH:

Wrong argument, sonny. Since Freud has been pretty well discredited by feminist researchers, you'll have to try a different tack. You could gently suggest that your loving wife is pathetically ignorant of the laws of thermodynamics,° or she would never make such an outrageous demand. Since it takes considerably more energy to *raise* the toilet seat against the pull of gravity than to *lower* it, it's no wonder that women outlive men by an average of seven years!

—GABBY

DEAR GABBY:

I enjoy my job, but I'm tired of being ragged about the inadequate sports coverage at my newspaper. As you well know, we can't afford to send out reporters and photographers to cover every significant sports event involving deaf athletes in the country, and we must depend on the kindness of strangers—e.g., school athletic directors—to provide us with the necessary information. But all too often they fail to cooperate, and we're left with big holes in our newspaper that must be filled up one way or the other, but our readers fail to understand this, and we get the same complaints over and over again. What can we do?

—"BARRY THE WRASSLER"

DEAR "BARRY THE WRASSLER":

I can well understand your frustration, having been in a similar position myself as the editor of my school's newspaper. May I suggest a form letter which could be sent out to soothe all the aggrieved subscribers? It would start like this: "Dear (Ungrateful Subscriber's Name)—We have received many complaints about our sports coverage in the newspaper. If you're disappointed over not reading about the sports teams at your dearly beloved alma mater, you can write to the following lackadaisical,° slow-as-molasses, stick-in-the-mud° athletic directors who refuse to send us the latest sports results, and tell them to shape up or ship out! (List of the slowpokes' names here.)"

I hope this suggestion works for you—and if it does, I'd appreciate a little favor in return, like two complimentary front-row tickets to the national basketball championships next year.

—GABBY

DEAR GABBY:

Are you for real?

—LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN°

DEAR LUDWIG:

Yes, I am. Are you?

—GABBY

by **PROTO-X**

quondam: (*adjective*) past; former. (Latin.)
inamorata: (*noun*) former sweetheart.
dreck: (*general noun*) crap; garbage; junk. (Yiddish.)
akin: (*adjective*) similar; parallel.
thermodynamics: (*noun*) scientific study of the relationship between heat, work, temperature, and energy.
Doppler effect: one of the principles of the physics, this describes how the frequency of sound or light waves is affected by the relative motion and distance from the observer.
diglossia: (*noun*) use of two languages. (Greek.)
lackadaisical: (*adjective*) lacking spirit or interest; apathetic; not making much of an effort.
stick-in-the-mud: (*idiom*) a silly, old-fashioned, narrow-minded, backwards, behind-the-times type of character.
Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951), the brilliant and influential Austrian-English philosopher, who studied and taught at Cambridge University. He is noted for his works on logic and theory of language, e.g., the nature of language as "a picture of reality," and the limits of language and thought.

Beyond the Envelope

(ONE COLUMNIST'S OPINION)

What Would Hearing People Think?

Scene: Deaf people have gathered for a special meeting with Edward Miner Gallaudet (EMG) to discuss the position that they should take when EMG goes to Milan, Italy, to attend the International Congress on Education of the Deaf. The year is 1879, and EMG is due to go to Italy next year.

EMG: "I am going to push for the use of sign language in schools for the deaf, and that people should forget about educating the deaf orally. You okay with the position that I propose to take, people?" (Discussion follows.)

Audience Member #1: "We can't advocate a sign-language-only method in schools."

Audience Member #2: "Some parents are saying that sign language is just too hard to learn and not worth the trouble."

Audience Member #3: "We could find ourselves alienated from the hearing world if we take this position. It's too risky."

Audience Member #4: "What would hearing people think?"

EMG: "Seeing that you're all not comfortable with the position that I've proposed, I'll go along with what other educators say while I'm in Italy."

Result: No new schools for the deaf were set up after 1880, and those that were set up before 1880 either were converted to oral schools, or they were closed down.

Scene: Deaf people have gathered in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1880 to consider the possibility of forming an organization called National Association of the Deaf. (Discussion follows.)

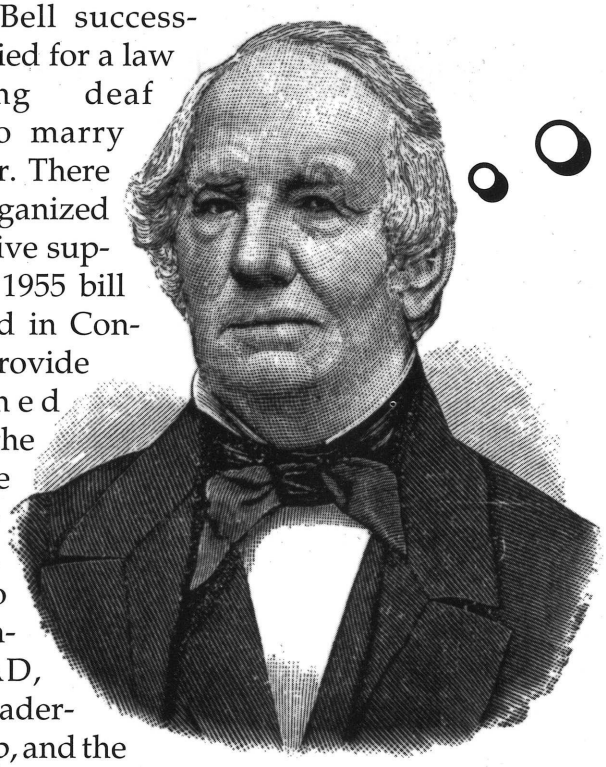
Audience Member #1: "What's the point of setting up an organization? We already have plenty of deaf clubs out there!"

Audience Member #2: "We've always done what was needed to protect our rights."

Audience Member #3: "We can keep an eye on the government in our spare time. This isn't a full-time job."

Audience Member #4: "What would hearing people think of us, anyway, if we had the nerve to set up something like NAD?"

Result: NAD was never formed, and as a result, there was no organized body to protect the Deaf community when hearing people tried to pass a law making it illegal for deaf people to drive. There was no organized body to protect the Deaf community when Alexander Graham Bell successfully lobbied for a law forbidding deaf people to marry each other. There was no organized body to give support to a 1955 bill introduced in Congress to provide captioned films for the deaf. There was no organized body to found Junior NAD, Youth Leadership Camp, and the Miss Deaf America Pageant. No state associations were formed. There was no organized body to give input on the content of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). There was no organized body to give input on the content of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. There was no organized body to give



backbone support to the leaders of Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University.

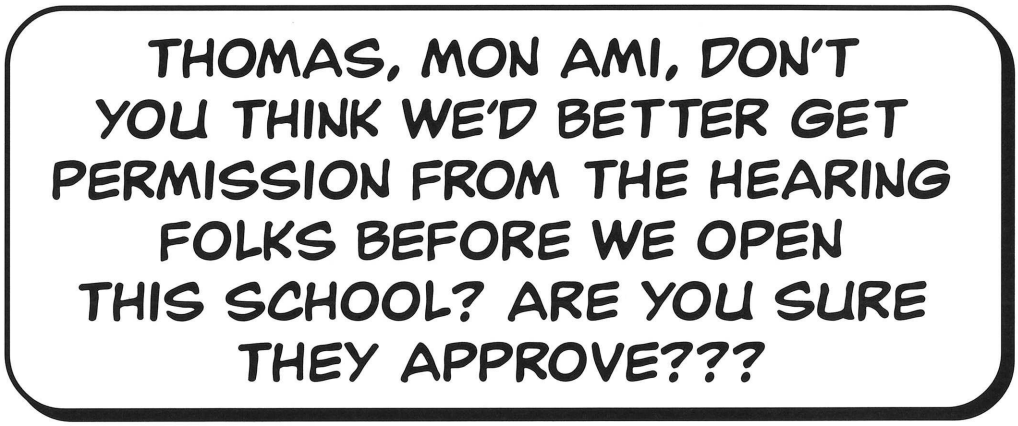
Scene: Deaf actors and other deaf people involved with theatre have gotten together to discuss the formation of National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD). (Discussion follows.)

Audience Member #1: "Hearing people would think we were a bunch of animals on the stage."

Audience Member #2: "There's too few deaf actors anyway."

Audience Member #3: "Who would write plays with deaf characters and plots of interest to the deaf? Certainly not deaf people themselves!"

Audience Member #4: "We can always try to make it in the hearing theatre world and try to win an Oscar, Tony, or Emmy."


THOMAS, MON AMI, DON'T YOU THINK WE'D BETTER GET PERMISSION FROM THE HEARING FOLKS BEFORE WE OPEN THIS SCHOOL? ARE YOU SURE THEY APPROVE???

Audience Member #5: "There are already interpreters who interpret hearing plays for the deaf community. That's enough."

Audience Member #6: "Besides that, what would hearing people think?"

Result: NTD was never founded, and deaf actors were left to struggle in the hearing world. Marlee Matlin never did win an Oscar, since Hollywood still did not think deaf actors could do the job as well as hearing actors. Phyllis Frelich never did win a Tony. Julianna Fjeld never received an Emmy for her production work on a TV movie.

Scene: Gallaudet students have gotten together to analyze the quality of candidates being considered for the job of the president of Gallaudet University, and to reflect over remarks made by Jane Bassett Spilman, the current chair of the Gallaudet Board of Trustees. (Discussion follows.)

Audience Member #1: "Elizabeth Zinser seems like the best candidate...she already has university experience."

Audience Member #2: "Yeah, look at King Jordan—a mere college dean! Definitely not sufficiently qualified for the job!"

Audience Member #3: "You know, Spilman is right when she said that we aren't ready. She is experienced and knows what she's talking about."

Audience Member #4: "What would hearing people think of us if we picked a deaf president?"

Result: Gallaudet University continues as usual with a hearing president, and no repercussions are felt outside of the Gallaudet community.

I heard this statement *"What would hearing people think?"* more than once when the No Voice controversy was raging at Gallaudet University, and when people were trying to get ASL recognized as an official language at Gallaudet. It took me a while to figure out why that question bothered me, and I realized that other minority groups probably don't spend a great deal of time worrying about what the majority would think of their decisions and their actions. I certainly haven't heard Malcolm X or Martin Luther King say, *"What would white people think? Should we be doing this?"*

✏ Editors' note: See this month's "DeafView" question.

Deaf Life Michele Listisard, an alumna of MSSD and SUNY-Albany, now works as a Youth Programs Coordinator for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). She is also the current scheduling agent for Miss Deaf America. When not working for the NAD, she can be found at those monthly meetings as a member of Gallaudet University's Institutional Review Board. Her husband, two dogs (one deaf Dalmatian and one hearing Husky mix), books, magazines, and Monty Python all are a big part of Michele's life and provide her with plenty of comic relief.

DeafView

READERS' RESPONSES

Should Congress have the power to decide which TV programs will be closed-captioned?

3% Yes 97% No 0% Not sure

NO—To do so would be a violation of the First Amendment ("Free Press"). Congress may pass no law that would abridge the press and certainly may not decide that a segment (read "Deaf") of the populace may be prevented from having equal access as do others (e.g., hearing people).

I read Senator Lieberman's comments in the **New York Times** a while ago—about his considering the ***Jerry Springer Show*** to be such worthless trash that he would seek to prohibit Federal funds being granted to closed-caption this program.

Just like hearing people, I too, can choose to turn off my TV if/when I consider a program unworthy of my time and attention. Still I want this to be my choice, not Congress of any of its members.

While Senator Lieberman is an excellent senator with a very good voting record, I do not think he realized how his comments would be interpreted by Deaf.

I should add that I watched almost no television until I bought my first closed-captioned device. At this time and since, I have been (according to my wife) a captive (of CC on TV). Obviously I dependon Closed Captions and will not tolerate anyone else judging what I may or may not watch.

NO—Why should they? They do not know what it is like for Deaf and hard of hearing people. There should be a variety of programs available in closed-captioned format. It shouldn't be chosen for the Deaf/HH people, but all programs should permit equal access to the Deaf/HH just like the hearing audience gets—only be closed-captioned for all Deaf/HH and foreign language individuals learning English as 2nd language.

NO—It should be ruled that all program be closed-captioned, not up to a vote by 'rulers' who don't understand the need or have the need themselves to decide what the Deaf community and others who depend on closed-captioning, need. If they don't think it's 'finanically beneficial' they will rule against.

YES—Congress should have the right to decide...they are elected to handle our national budget. All captioning companies are getting greedy by charging too much for their services. Take note there is no Deaf owner of a captioning company, it's all hearing-operated company. They are making money on our disabilities. I don't watch much TV anymore. The politics in regard to captioning just makes me sick!

NO—Congress do not have power to decide what TV programs to watch because we the Deaf adults are not children! And we have every rights to watch whatever we want and we are not going back to the corner of dark ages, it is time to fight for our rights!!! I am sick of you folks for those who are too scared to speak out and expect other bold deafies to speak out—what if there is not enough bold deafies to do this for you folks then it is your fault to make the Congress to make decision whether we should watch or not?...Supposed if ***Touched by an Angel*** is not captioned while hearing people can hear, then what are you folks going to do? Well, it is time to roll up your sleeves, encourage deafies or hearies to get involved! Go on and do it!!!

Readers have asked us how many "DeafView" responses we get every month.

This month's total: 647

DeafView

READERS' VIEWPOINT

DEAF LIFE would like to know what you think about major issues affecting the Deaf community. Fax your response to (716) 442-6371, E-mail us at deaflife@deaflife.com, **or** send it to us at Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

Do deaf people worry too much about what hearing people think of them?

❑ Yes ❑ No ❑ Not sure

Comments: _____

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Deadline: June 20,1998

Visit us at: **http://www.deafview.com**

FAX: (716) 442-6371

Please respond promptly so that we can publish the results in the July issue.

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DeafView
READERS' VIEWPOINT

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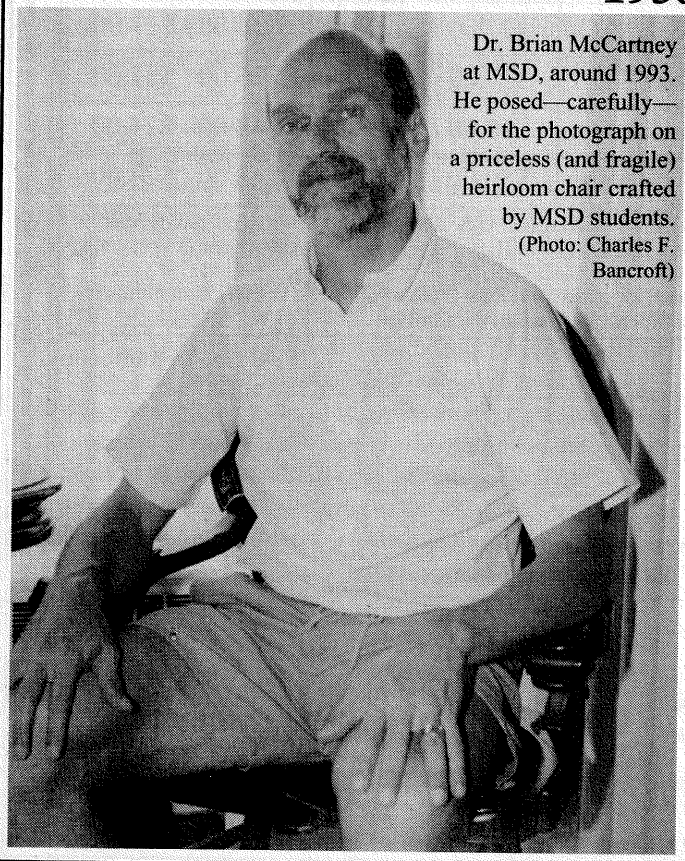
• RELEASES • ANNOUNCEMENTS • UPCOMING EVENTS • LATE-BREAKING NEWS •

"I loved my work"

IN MEMORIAM

DR. BRIAN D. McCARTNEY

1950-1998



Dr. Brian McCartney at MSD, around 1993. He posed—carefully—for the photograph on a priceless (and fragile) heirloom chair crafted by MSD students. (Photo: Charles F. Bancroft)

Dr. **Brian D. McCartney**, former Superintendent of the Michigan School for the Deaf, died of acute leukemia on April 26, at his home in Lansing. He was 47.

In an E-mailed announcement, **Gregory Serrano** wrote, "Despite our report of Brian going into remission, the doctors discovered that it only lasted for less than two weeks. He was given the choice of very intensive chemotherapy, which would have probably killed him in the hospital, or to come home and be around his loved ones and wait for the day. Brian chose the latter.

"We apologize for not letting you know. Brian did NOT want people mourning for him for the whole time he was at home. He preferred to keep everyone happy for as long as possible.

"He also asked that people who would like to send flowers not do so; instead, he preferred you send a donation in his memory to: The Michigan School for the Deaf & Blind 1667 Miller Road, Flint, MI 48503.

"Two memorial services will be held—one in Lansing, and the other in NYC. Details to come.

"Thank you for your cards, letters, prayers, and support during our ordeal. If you believe in heaven, I'm sure Brian is personally thanking you all right now from his new home."

Dr. McCartney was born on July 19, 1950 in Philadelphia, and spent his first year in a small trailer in New Mexico, near

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Send us anything you think is appropriate. Items should be of national, not just local, interest. Typed articles with photos preferred. Photos, etc., will be returned on request. We reserve the right to reject or edit any material.

When we need it:

Please send material by the first of the month for publication the following month, with a 10-day grace period. (Items for November 1992 publication, for example, must be sent before October 10.) The earlier, the better. We will not accept any story more than 1 month old.

Where to send it:

For regular **first-class mail**, please send to our P.O. box number: **DEAF LIFE** , c/o MSM Productions, Box 23380, Rochester, NY 14692-3380.

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the Navajo Indian Reservation. He attended several oral schools in Philadelphia. When he was 10, he was mainstreamed in a private school. He told us: "Words cannot describe the frustrations I experienced in this new environment. I withdrew into books and as a result became an avid reader." Raised oral, he learned to sign as an adult. At Susquehanna University, he majored in Latin and minored in English, and earned his M.A.s and doctorates in Education of the Deaf and Special Education at Columbia University, New York.

◆ He had quite an impressive résumé. Many of his early years were as a teacher. From 1973 to 1981 he worked as an instructor at the Lexington School for the Deaf in Jackson Heights, New York. From 1978 to 1981, he was an instructor at Teachers College, Columbia University. In 1982, he worked at Marymount College, New York, as an instructor, and he had two stints at LaGuardia Community Collage in Long Island City as an instructor from 1974 to 1975, and 1984 to 1985.

◆ From 1979 to 1980, he worked at Teachers College, Columbia University, as Supervisor of the Office for the Disabled. From 1981 to 1982, he was Assistant Principal of the Nassau (New York) BOCES Program for the Hearing-Impaired. From 1982 to 1987, he was Director of the Secondary Education/Summer Program at the Human Resources School in Albertson, New York. From 1987 to 1990, he was Executive Director of the Cerebral Palsy League of Union County, New Jersey (a school for physically disabled students). Prior to becoming MSD's first deaf superintendent, he worked as Executive Director of the Joseph Bulova School (also for physically disabled students) in Woodside, New York. He began working at MSD on March 4, 1991. Almost two years later, he became the Interim Superintendent of the Michigan School for the Blind.

In our September 1991 cover story on deaf superintendents, he told us that on his first day at MSD, he visited all the classrooms to meet the students and staff. (It was undoubtedly something that none of his hearing predecessors had done.) "Since then I have met continuously with [them all], primarily to share thoughts and concerns." He also told us, "The future of residential schools for the deaf will depend heavily on the support and the involvement of the Deaf Community."

◆ He was certified as an English teacher, a Latin teacher, a school-district administrator, and a school administrator. He had many professional affiliations, including Board of Directors of St. Joseph's School for the Deaf, Advisory Board of the School of Social Work of Adelphi University, Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, Council for Exceptional Children, President of the Board of Directors of Southridge Cooperative, New York Deaf Theatre, the Deaf AIDS Project (New York City), the Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services, and the Michigan Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. He also served as president of the Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf and vice-president of its New York City chapter, Empire RAD, in the mid-1980s.

◆ Dr. McCartney was the recipient of several awards: the United States Office of Education Fellowship from Teachers College in 1979, the Joseph Tomlinson Memorial Scholarship in 1980, and the National Student Educational Grant from Teachers College in 1981. He published many scholarly articles in journals such as the **Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness** and the **Volta Review**.

◆ He was not "all work and no play." He jogged 5 miles a day and collected coins and keys he found on his jogging routes. He even completed the New York Marathon in 1984. He took piano lessons, loved to see interpreted plays and captioned movies, and played with his two dogs, Marlborough and Minot. He was also a very generous man who donated money to countless organizations and causes. He attended auctions, benefits, dinners, bowl-a-thons, and any other imaginable function that meant helping someone.

◆ Dr. McCartney's words, as written when he had to leave the schools 3 years ago due to his meningitis attacks, not only apply to MSDB, but to his death as well: "It breaks my heart not to be with you, for not only did I love my work but I found so many special people who believed in our children. I honestly felt we worked well together and did the best for our children, and still do! While I will not always be with you physically . . . I'll always be with you in spirit."

◆ He is survived by his parents, **David** and **Kathryn McCartney**, of Marlborough, Connecticut, and by his partner of 10-1/2 years, Gregory Serrano, of Lansing.

➳ As noted above, contributions in memory of Dr. McCartney can be made to the Michigan School for the Deaf and Blind at 1667 Miller Road, Flint, MI 48503.■

✏ Paragraphs with a dingbat (◆) are primarily taken or adapted from the biography of Dr. McCartney by **Joyce Hennon** of MSDB and Greg Serrano. Thanks to Mr. Serrano for keeping us posted.

HITTING THEM HARD

On May 7, the first of 18 people convicted of enslaving deaf Mexican aliens in a moneymaking scheme were sentenced to prison and ordered to pay $1.5 million to their victims.

Adriana Paoletti Lemus, 30, was ordered to serve 14 years and make restitution of $1 million. The FBI identified her as a leader of a New York City ring. Her mother, **Delia Lemus Ruiz de Paoletti**, 59, was sentenced to 5 years and $500,000 in restitution.

Sixteen more defendants were to be sentenced over the next two weeks. Two others, including the alleged boss of the smuggling ring (**Renato Paoletti Lemus** and his father **José Paoletti Moreda**), are fighting extradition from Mexico.

Prosecutors say the group earned millions of dollars through the sale of keychains and other cheap trinkets on streets and subways. When not working, the illegal aliens

were kept at two safe houses, sometimes chained and beaten for not meeting $100-a-day sales quotas.

"What this case is about is an individual exploiting other individuals and holding them as slaves for over five years," said Assistant U.S. Attorney **Leslie Cornfeld**. The case came to light last July when four victims fled to a police station and spilled their story to detectives. Similar operations were broken up in Chicago and Los Angeles.

Adriana Paoletti Lemus pleaded guilty last December to obstruction of justice, money laundering, alien-smuggling, and a little-used antislavery law. Her mother pleaded guilty to conspiring to smuggle aliens and keep them in involuntary servitude.

The restitution would come from bank accounts that could contain up to $3 million, officials said. The would-be beneficiaries—about 50 adults and 12 children held in protective custody by immigration authorities—would receive between $1,500 to $60,000 each.

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WAGING WAR AGAINST SLAVERY: RENO APPOINTS TASK FORCE*

On April 23, Attorney General **Janet Reno** set up a task force to attack growing instances of modern-day slavery in the United States. "Slavery is one of history's worst moments, but it isn't just history when you look at some of these cases," Reno told her weekly news conference. We are not interested in containing modern-day slavery; we want to eradicate it in America."

Just last year, 60 deaf Mexicans were forced to peddle keychains and trinkets on the streets of New York City, Reno noted. In Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida, migrant farm workers were forced to work for little pay in cramped, unsanitary living conditions, and threatened with physical harm if they tried to escape. Trinket-smuggling rings in Chicago, North Carolina, and Texas were broken up. In California, Thai garment workers were forced by armed guards to work 20-hour shifts in sweatshop conditions.

In the last 3 years, the Justice Department has taken up 10 cases involving more than 150 victims.

"Most of the cases seem to involve undocumented workers from Mexico and other countries. But there are also cases involving migrant workers, which do involve United States citizens," said Acting Assistant Attorney General **Bill Lann Lee**, Chief of Justice's civil-rights division and co-chair of the task force. "No matter what your legal status, it's emerging as a significant law-enforcement problem."

The task force will be drawn from Justice and Labor Department investigators who already work on such cases. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Solicitor of Labor brings civil cases to recover wages for underpaid workers and refers some cases to Justice for criminal prosecution. The solicitor will be the other task force co-chair.

"It certainly is our impression that the problem is getting worse," said Associate Solicitor **Steve Mandel**. "We certainly see a higher degree of abusive practices in the garment industry." We would like to see . . . some of those cases develop into criminal cases . . . to deter employers from engaging in these abusive practices."

The task force will set up regular meetings where Labor investigators, FBI agents, and immigration officers can exchange leads and compare techniques. It also will establish a central database and draft ''a blueprint for addressing the unique needs of victims of worker exploitation" so they ''will be more willing to come forward and report these terrible crimes." That would include medical care and protection for abused workers.

Mandel said the garment industry in particular is very difficult to monitor in part because the exploited workers ''tend to be undocumented, and they are often unwilling to come to us with complaints."

Lee said the task force would look into whether legislation is needed to allow victims who are illegal aliens to avoid deportation if they come forward to report abuses. But for now, decisions on whether to deport illegal aliens discovered in slavery will continue to be made on a case-by-case basis.

✏ Adapted from an AP brief by **Michael J. Sniffen**, datelined Washington, D.C., April 23, carried on *AOL News*. Thanks to **Rita Straubhaar**.

STANDOFF ENDS SAFELY

A 10-hour kidnapping/standoff ordeal on May 14 involving a baby ended safely, thanks in great part to the skill of a police negotiator fluent in ASL.

A deaf man armed only with a pen held his baby son hostage in his car for more than 10 hours before surrendering to police. Negotiators used ASL to communicate with him as he sat in the car in a driveway in San Leandro. Signing while holding the baby, the man threatened to stab him with the pen. Police surrounded the car while the negotiator kept him talking, listening to his angry story, persuading him not to hurt the baby. Video footage from the standoff was broadcast on KRON (San Francisco's NBC affiliate) and on CBS.

The baby appeared to be "just fine," said Alameda County Sheriff's Sgt. **Jim Knudsen**. No names were immediately available.

The kidnapping appeared to be motivated by revenge. The man, who had recently spent 30 days in jail, had an argument with his wife the previous night in Oakland, and drove off with her son, setting off a chase with officers. A restraining order had been issued against him earlier and officers said he vowed not to go back to jail.

✏ From an AP brief, datelined New York, May 7. Thanks to **Richard Roehm**.

LET'S JUST DROP IT, OKAY?

On April 29, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California announced that a settlement had been reached in a federal lawsuit against a California Highway Patrol Officer who threatened to sue a deaf motorist in small-claims court for filing a citizen's complaint against him.

Jason Kaldani had filed a citizen's complaint with the CHP against Officer **Richard Gibson** in May 1997 as a result of an encounter with Officer Gibson during a traffic stop. After investigating the complaint, the CHP exonerated° Officer Gibson. But Officer Gibson, saying he believed that Kaldani's citizen complaint to the CHP was false and defamatory, sent Kaldani a letter stating his intention to sue for damages in small-claims court.

In response, Kaldani filed his federal lawsuit, alleging that Gibson's letter was in retaliation for exercising his civil rights. In his lawsuit, Kaldani sought damages, an order preventing Gibson from proceeding with a small-claims lawsuit and a determination by the court that California Civil Code § 47.5 was unconstitutional.

After several weeks of pre-trial discovery° proceedings in the federal case, the parties each concluded that justice would be served by both sides dropping their respective claims. In the settlement, Kaldani has agreed to dismiss his federal lawsuit, and Gibson has agreed not to pursue his defamation claim against him.

Kaldani said that he was pleased that the defamation suit would not be pursued against him. Gibson also said he was pleased that Kaldani was dismissing his claims against him and his claim challenging the constitutionality of California Civil Code § 47.5.

✏ See "'A Badge is Not a License to Bully,'" lead story, December 1997 "News Briefs."

exonerated: (*verb*) excused; cleared; declared innocent of wrongdoing.

discovery: (*noun*) a step in the legal process, in which lawyers representing both sides meet to discuss their clients' cases and exchange evidence. This is an important part of preparation for the trial. If a lawyer doesn't believe that his/her client has a strong case, s/he will negotiate a settlement during this stage and persuade the client to accept it. Only a percentage of lawsuits ever make it to court. Many cases, as this one, do not go beyond the discovery stage; they are "settled out of court."

A WELCOME PROPOSAL

On April 2, the Federal Communications Commission proposed rules to ensure that telephone services and equipment are accessible to disabled people. Under the proposal, telecommunications companies will be responsible for ensuring their products are as accessible as possible to people with all manner of disabilities.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act required the FCC to come up with disability access guidelines for the phone industry.

At a meeting on April 2, the five FCC commissioners unanimously adopted a Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking, which could be changed after a short comment period.

"We all benefit when people with disabilities become active in our communities and in society as a whole," FCC Chairman **William Kennard** said after participating in a demonstration of several products allowing telephone use by blind and deaf people. "Curb cuts, speaker phones and vibrating pagers—things we all now take for granted—were all originally designed as disability solutions."

The proposal requires telecommunications providers to make their products accessible to the extent "readily achievable," a definition from the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The law requires changes that are easily accomplished without much difficulty or expense. It also set out an expedited complaint procedure for consumers who feel a product or service has not been made accessible.

Internet services are not generally regulated by the FCC and will not be covered by the proposed rules. A private-sector Internet-standards group, the World Wide Web Consortium, is working to include more features to improve disabled access to Websites.

✏ Adapted from a Reuters brief, "FCC proposes rules for disabled access to phones," datelined Washington, D.C., April 2, and carried on NJ-L. ➤

✏ For the complete statements, see "Section 255: what is it to you?" in this month's **Plus**.

CULTURE SHOCK

(or, "What's the sign for *soba* noodles?")

by **Yoshino Matsui***

Kyodo News Service, Tokyo

In one of Tokyo's newest cafés, the 24-year-old manager and eight staff are friendly, always smiling to welcome the customers. But you will never hear words such as "Irasshai-mase" (*welcome*) or "Arigato-gozaimashita" (*thank you*). Instead, they express their gratitude with their fingers and facial expressions, much in keeping with a café named "Deaftopia," a coined word meaning "utopia° of the deaf."

Since its opening near J.R. Nakano Station on April 1, the eclectic° place—parts of the yellow-white walls are covered with round stones and the ceiling is bare concrete showing all the wires for lighting—has been drawing media attention as all of its staff are deaf and it prohibits the customers to have "phonetic conversations." "This cafe is for enjoying food, beverages and sign-language talks," a board proclaims near the entrance. Another board attached to the entrance door

says, "Please kindly refrain from having 'phonetic conversation' inside. Manager."

Yoshihide Izumi, the young manager, who is from Sakai in Osaka Prefecture, said the prohibition has drawn both applause and censure.° "Some people said we should play background music or should allow 'phonetic talking, if they are done quietly. But imagine, there is no music nor anything else sounding in the deaf world. In this café, I want people who can hear to experience our world."

Hitomi Akahori, 25, who came to Deaftopia for lunch and a signed chat with her friends, said, "This café is ideal for people like us [the deaf], because we can talk feeling relaxed. But for people who can hear, I think they may feel uncomfortable." But one of her friends said, "Here, people can feel how the deaf have felt in society, such as the feeling of being in a minority surrounded by the majority. I think such an experience is not bad for them."

For customers who do not know sign language, each table is equipped with magnetic boards to write upon for making orders or having a conversation. But Izumi said that most of the hearing customers at Deaftopia so far came to see and study "native" sign language, just as people who want to acquire English study abroad in the United States or another English-speaking country.

Keiko Murase, 53, and **Noriko Arai**, 51, were among the hearing customers at Deaftopia. They came to the Tokyo cafe from their homes in Ichihara and Narashino, both in Chiba Prefecture, just to learn sign language. The women said they both have friends who cannot hear.

In Japan, sign language is said to have been "in" since 1995, when two of the country's major television stations aired serial dramas with a heroine and hero who are deaf and whose roles were performed by an actress and actor popular among teenagers and people in their 20s. And the boom seems to be continuing. In March, media attention focused on the opening ceremony at the annual spring high-school-baseball tournament where the players' oath by the Kyoto Nishi High School captain was given both orally and in sign language. Starting in April, Musashino Women's College in Hoya, Tokyo, set up a new department called Social Welfare Studies offering sign language and Braille courses to juniors, becoming the first-ever college where students can learn the two skills.

Izumi said he is happy about the sign-language boom itself, but there are some extras, which are strange to the eyes of deaf people, attached to the boom. "For instance, the roles of the deaf persons in the TV dramas should have been performed by a deaf actor and actress," he said, pointing out some unrealistic performances by the stars.

In the first place, he said, most of the sign language seen on television and in public occasions is not real sign language. "The real language of the (Japanese) deaf is Japanese Sign Language, but they use a different kind of sign language, which translates spoken Japanese word-by-word." The latter, often called Sim-Com (simultaneous communication), is an invented sign language having the same grammar as spoken Japanese, according to sign-language experts. But Japanese Sign Language (JSL) is traditional and spontaneous, made naturally by deaf people over generations, just as spoken Japanese was made by hearing people. It has a totally different grammar from spoken Japanese, the experts noted.

"I want people to know more about Japanese Sign Language," said Izumi, adding all staff at his cafe use only JSL.

Besides being the manager of the Tokyo café, he is the founding member of "Deaf Shock," an Osaka-based group of deaf people who have become aware of their identify as "the Deaf," not as disabled people, but as people having their own language and own culture. He said: "This cafe was unthinkable three or four years ago. Over the years, deaf people have been silent about the circumstances surrounding them, paying no attention to even their own language" Izumi already sees beyond Deaftopia, where he said he wanted to create a place for hearing people to experience the deaf world. "My dream is to create a place where anybody, including deaf people and hearing people who do not have any preconceptions about the deaf, can get together and feel relaxed," he said.

Deaftopia's fax number is ❒011-81-3-381-3636.

✏ Taken (with slight changes) from a release, "Signers open cafe to increase status of sign language," datelined Tokyo, April 27, 1998, carried on NJ-L News. ➤

utopia: (*noun*) an imaginary island, site of a perfect society, the subject and title of Sir Thomas More's book (1516). (A word coined by More, from the Greek words *ou* and *topos*, "no-place."). Now used to mean an ideal or perfect society or community, also "paradise" or "Eden."

eclectic: (*adjective*) a mix of different styles or elements; choosing from a variety of approaches or themes.

censure: (*noun*) negative criticism; disapproval; objections.

HONORING A HERO

The French delegation at the dedication. (Photo: Peggie Parsons)

"Greatly astonished was I . . . After a short pause, I said I would not hesitate to go if I could do it properly."

These brief words describe one of the most important decisions in the history of American education. A deaf teacher, **Laurent Clerc**, agreed to leave his native France and help Hartford native **Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet** establish the first school for the deaf in the United States. Clerc, who devoted the rest of his long life to the school, has become the most famous and honored deaf hero in America. He was the first deaf teacher and principal in the United States. He taught his students much more than "the basics." Through his own example, he inspired them to take responsibility, and taught them never to feel sorry for themselves, but to work hard, learn, think, and be proud of what they were—to become educated, independent, first-class citizens. He was the inspiration for much of the progress and many of the accomplishments of the American Deaf community: schools, a college, the profession of teaching other deaf people, clubs, associations, and organizations, the Deaf press, even ASL.

On Friday, April 17, the NAD honored Laurent Clerc and his wife **Eliza Boardman Clerc** by unveiling and dedicating new headstones at their graves in Spring Grove Cemetery, 2035 Main Street, in Hartford. This marked the culmination of a 6-year effort by the Laurent Clerc Headstone Restoration Committee, a project of the NAD, to restore and beautify the Clercs' gravesites, which had been ravaged° by time, weather, and vandalism.

The American School for the Deaf, which Clerc helped found, opened on April 15, 1817, a day that marked the real beginning of education of the deaf in the Western Hemisphere. Founders Day commemorates that opening. ASD worked with the NAD by holding its Founders Day and Community Open House one day later than usual, on Thursday, April 16. At the Open House, a student play about Clerc was presented at nearby Roberts Theater, Kingswood-Oxford School, on Trout Brook Drive.

Visiting dignitaries, including officials of the NAD and from Gallaudet University and ASD, local deaf and deaf-education leaders, and a delegation from Clerc's own school, the Institut National des Jeunes Sourds (National Institute for Deaf Youth) in Paris, attended a variety of events, in addition to ASD's Open House and campus tour. There was a Deaf Heritage Banquet on Thursday, with keynoter **Gil Eastman** (of ***Deaf Mosaic*** fame), a continental breakfast prior to the dedication ceremony on Friday, a luncheon at the Connecticut Historical Society, and a tour of Hartford. A buffet banquet dinner was held in the evening with the keynote address given by **Jack Gannon**, noted author of **Deaf Heritage** and **The Week the World Heard Gallaudet**. It was the most important event of the year for the Connecticut Deaf community.

Historical background: the great adventure

Gallaudet was sent to Europe by a group of Hartford philanthropists° to learn the methods used to educate deaf people there. Frustrated in England, he turned to the French and spent 7 months studying their methods. Diminishing funds forced him to book passage home before he could complete his studies. It was for this reason he asked Laurent Clerc to accompany him. Clerc, a brilliant young teacher at the Paris school, had been a student there, and was an expert teacher. The French Sign Language used in Paris at the time became the basis of American Sign Language (ASL).

"The decision to come to America has to be put in the context of its time to be appreciated," said ASD Executive Director **Winfield McChord, Jr.** "The journey took 52 days. Clerc never saw his mother again, nor many other members of his family. He left a cosmopolitan,° exciting Paris for what was, to him, a rather drab, puritanical Hartford, with a strange language and customs. He made these sacrifices to help the deaf people of America."

Clerc's arrival in this country created a sensation. No one had ever seen a literate, educated deaf man before. Gallaudet and Clerc toured the country to raise funds for the new American school (called "the Hartford Asylum"), with Gallaudet interpreting questions from the audience and Clerc answering them, eloquently, by writing on a blackboard. They were highly successful, meeting with many important officials, including President **James Monroe**, and winning substantial support from both private and public sources. Clerc later became the first deaf person to address Congress—and received a thunderous ovation.

Said McChord: "Without Clerc it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to obtain the financial support needed to start the school. His testimony led directly to the school's obtaining the first state and the first federal aid to special education in the history of the U.S.."

The restoration campaign: onwards!

Among the many visitors who came to Hartford for ASD's 175th anniversary in 1992 was **Alan R. Barwiolek** ("**Al B**"), teacher, performer, and advocate. While in Hartford, he set off to visit Clerc's grave. At first he could not find it at all. Returning later with a friend, he located the gravesite, but was dismayed to find the twin stones vandalized—broken off their bases and then half-buried, weather-worn and neglected, the names almost unreadable.

"His heart sank when he saw that grave. He was very upset," said **Marilyn O'Leary**, an ASD teacher and member of the Headstone Committee. "He started a campaign to commission new stones for Clerc and Clerc's wife." He turned to the NAD. Delegates to the 1992 Biennial NAD Convention in Denver, Colorado, approved a resolution introduced by Barwiolek, to establish a committee to restore and preserve the original headstones and to initiate a "Celebrate Laurent Clerc Day" in schools and the community to increase awareness of his important contributions. Barwiolek was the first chairperson of this project. After he died of AIDS in 1996, **Sue Pedersen**, a committee member and a resident of West Hartford, became the new chairperson.

Under the auspices of the NAD, approximately $38,145 was raised in a national campaign. Funds for the restoration were raised through donations pledged primarily from NAD State Associations, the NAD, and individual contributors.

After 6 years of fundraising, sturdy new vandal-resistant granite headstones and a protective fence around the gravesites were ready for the dedication ceremony April 17—ironically (or appropriately) on the second anniversary of Barwiolek's death. His old performing partner **J. Charlie McKinney**, who had also been actively involved on the Headstone Committee, died a few days before the ceremony—but he knew that the project had succeeded.

More needs to be done, though. "The vandalism in Spring Grove cemetery is really awful," said O'Leary. "But [nearby] Old North Cemetery is even worse. It's really terrible, and shows no respect." Old North Cemetery contains the graves of ASD's first student, **Alice Cogswell**, and her family. (Alice's father, Dr. **Mason Fitch Cogswell**, helped finance Gallaudet's trip to Europe and is honored as the third co-founder of ASD.) A second fundraising effort, to restore the Cogswell family plot, is underway, sponsored by the ASD Alumni Association and the Gallaudet University sorority Phi Kappa Zeta. For information, write to **Darlene Shilati** at the American School for the Deaf, 139 North Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107.

ravaged: (*verb*) destroyed or badly damaged; battered.

philanthropists: (*noun*) generous and visionary citizens; benefactors.

cosmopolitan: (*adjective; can also be used as a noun*) literally, "citizen of the world." Sophisticated and lively; stylish; urbane; the quality of a great city with wonderful shops, lovely buildings and parks, flourishing arts, and a rich cultural and social life.

NEBRASKA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF: END OF THE ROAD— OR BEGINNING OF THE FIGHT?

On Saturday morning, May 23, the Nebraska Association of the Deaf (NeAD) and the NAD organized a rally at the Crossroads Mall area in Omaha. Pre-rally keynote presentations and organizing activities started at 9:00 at the Omaha Association of the Deaf Hall, 4050 Hillsdale Avenue.

The main purpose of the rally was to protest the closure of the Nebraska School for the Deaf and to strengthen local and statewide coalition efforts in preparation for the new legislative session.

Representatives from the NAD included President **Benjamin J. Soukup**, former Executive Director **Gary W. Olsen**, and Associate Executive Director **Nancy B. Rarus**. Rally presenters included NeAD President **James DeVaney**, **Norm Weverka**, and **Rogeilo Arteaga**.

The weekend's events also included **Jack R. Gannon** as the guest speaker for NSD graduation ceremonies, which began at 2 p.m. on Saturday, followed by a neighborhood parade and an evening "Deafywood" performance at NSD. The NSD Alumni Association also sponsored an informal reception and meeting on the on Friday evening, May 22, and all-day activities on Sunday, May 24.

Why the community is angry: The Nebraska Legislature, with minimal input from parents of deaf children and deaf professionals, decided not to provide continued funding for NSD, favoring instead a plan put forth by the Nebraska Department of Education. This plan, effective Fall 1998, will establish four regional/statewide programs for deaf/HH children. Those four programs will cover the Omaha metropolitan area, Lincoln and the southeast region, the northeast region, and the central-western region.

The NAD has been working with the NeAD to oppose this plan, believing that deaf and hearing children should be offered a full continuum of educational options to choose from. With the closure of NSD, parents will be denied a vital option in determining the most appropriate educational setting for their children.

Legislative Bill 1276 was introduced by Senator **Kiel** in the Nebraska Unicameral Legislative Session on January 22, 1998. LB 1276 proposed standards of education for deaf and hard-of-hearing children and stated that NSD could not be closed until other programs that would meet those standards be established and fully functioning. Unfortunately, this bill died in the Education Committee.

The Governor of Nebraska convened a special one-week session in May to revise and pass a previously vetoed bill for special-education funding. There was a line in this voluminous bill that would repeal the statute requiring the existence of the Nebraska School for the Deaf. Parents and the Deaf community attempted to amend this bill to adopt standards of deaf education, as outlined in the failed LB 1276. Legislators, however, "turned a deaf ear" to the needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

Because the Nebraska Legislature has chosen to ignore the pleas of parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children, educators, the Deaf community, and children themselves, favoring instead to adopt a supposedly cheaper plan proposed by the Nebraska Department of Education, the following events have taken place:

➨ The Nebraska School for the Deaf will close its doors on August 1.

➨ No standards of education for deaf and hard-of-hearing children have been adopted, leaving such in the hands of those who are not fully aware of the full ramifications of the current plan.

The NAD deplores this situation and calls upon the Nebraska Legislature to put the future of quality education for deaf and hard-of-hearing children above the value of the current dime.

What next? In the 1999 Nebraska State Legislative Session, there will be another attempt to introduce a bill establishing educational standards for deaf/HH children. The NAD will continue to work with the NeAD, advocates, parents, and groups within the state toward this goal.

P.C. IN ACTION: NTID GETS A NEW DEAN

On May 5, Dr. **Robert R. Davila**, RIT Vice President for NTID,* and Dr. **Stanley McKenzie**, Provost and RIT Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced the appointment of **T. Alan Hurwitz** as Dean of NTID. His appointment is effective July 1. He succeeds the popular Dr. **James J. DeCaro**, who resigned his deanship last year.

A tenured professor, Hurwitz holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Washington University and a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from St. Louis University, both in St. Louis, Missouri, and an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Teaching from the University of Rochester.

He worked for McDonnell Douglas Corporation from 1965 to 1970 and came to NTID in 1970 as an educational specialist in RIT's College of Engineering. He has subsequently held a number of progressively more responsible positions, including Support Department Chair for Engineering and Computer Science Programs, Director for NTID Support Services, Associate Dean for Educational Support Services Programs, Associate Vice President for NTID Outreach and External Affairs, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs. He has been Director of the Northeast Technical Assistance Center at NTID since 1996.

He has been active in a variety of professional and deafness-related organizations and serves on a number of boards of organizations serving deaf persons, including the Rochester School for the Deaf and the National Captioning Institute. He is a former NAD president.

The four other finalists selected by the NTID Dean Search Committee (which was co-chaired by **Gerry Buckley** and **Milton Coffield**) were:

- Dr. **Laurie Brewer**, Director of NTID's Center for Arts and Sciences.
- Dr. **Bruce Halverson**, Head and Artistic Director, Department of Theatre, University of Illinois. (He headed NTID's Performing Arts Department in the early '80s. In 1980, he founded Sunshine Too, NTID's legendary traveling troupe of performers/outreach ambassadors.)
- Dr. **Barbara Johnson**, Associate Professor, Department of Communication Disorders, University of Texas-Pan American.
- Dr. **David Stewart**, Professor, Department of Counseling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education, Michigan State University.

✏ Just for the record, NTID's full name is the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, and it's one of 7 colleges of Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York.

TAKING A NEW PATHWAY

Dr. **Christine M. Licata** of Rochester, New York, Associate Dean at NTID, has been appointed a senior associate for the American Association for Higher Education's (AAHE) New Pathways II Project: "Academic Careers for a New Century: From Inquiry to Practice."

Duties associated with the new position include working collaboratively over the next 3 years with AAHE project staff and with the staff of the Project on Faculty Appointments at Harvard University to initiate activities that promote campus change in the areas of faculty-employment practices, tenure process, and post-tenure review. These project activities are jointly funded by AAHE with Pew Charitable Trusts funding the Harvard Project.

Licata will assume a lead role for project initiatives dealing specifically with post-tenure review. New Pathways II is the second phase of a major study of faculty-employment policies and practices, which began in 1995. During Phase I, Licata and Dr. **Joseph Morreale**, Vice Provost at Pace University, co-wrote the AAHE publication **Post-Tenure Review: Practices, Policies, and Precautions**, now in its second printing.

Licata will continue in her role as Associate Dean at NTID during the New Pathways II Project, focusing her energies principally on coordination of the tenure and promotion processes, curriculum process, catalog preparation, accreditation and program review, articulation-transfer agreements, and personnel-related matters.

"We congratulate Chris on this exciting and creative new endeavor of major national importance," says Dr. **James DeCaro**, outgoing NTID Dean. "She brings extraordinary talent, insight, and dedication to every one of her professional undertakings."

Licata earned her M.S. and B.S. degrees from Canisius College, and her Ed.D. from George Washington University.

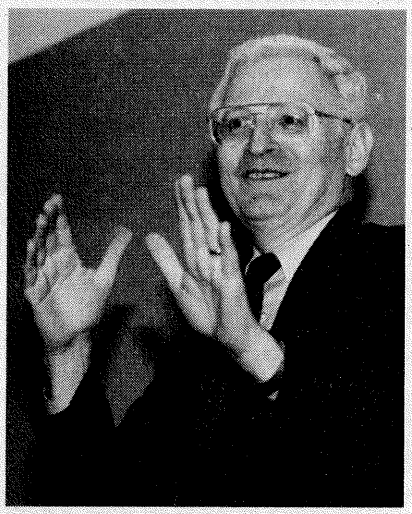
BESTOWING THE HONORS

Charter Day, which celebrates the signing of Gallaudet's charter by President Abraham Lincoln on April 8. 1864, was observed on Saturday, March 14, in the Gallaudet University Kellogg Conference Center. The Gallaudet University Alumni Association Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund and the Office of Alumni Relations sponsored the 29th annual Charter Day Banquet and Awards Program.

This year, the banquet was moved up from April to March to "leave room for" the celebration of the tenth anniversary of Deaf President Now and to combine it with the University's plans for DPN-related commemorative events and the spring GUAA Board Meeting.

Philip W. Bravin, '66, served as Master of Ceremonies. He shared his eight DPN tales with the 200 people who came to the banquet. It was the largest crowd in many years. Two GUAA and four LCCF awards were presented.

1998 Charter Day Award recipients (left to right): Helen Schmitt, Alexander "Sandy" Ewan, Marilyn J. Smith, Eiichi Takada, Clifford Moers, and Mark Fisher.



Master of Ceremonies Phil Bravin entertains the audience with stories about DPN.

The GUAA Outstanding Young Alumnus Award was presented to **Clifford W. Moers**, '86, of Boulder, Colorado. He holds three positions—Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator, Disability Services, University of Colorado at Boulder; Deaf Community Liaison, Marion Downs National Center, Boulder; and, Organizational Development and Business Manager, Magnet School for the Deaf, Lakewood. His citation read in part, "To possess ideals about education of deaf children is one thing. To do something about it is something else. And, for deaf children in Colorado, Clifford will long be their champion. The Magnet School of the Deaf is Cliff's crowning achievement and he has now joined the ranks of the deaf educators of the 19th century who established schools for the deaf in the United States."*

The GUAA presented the Pauline "Polly" Peikoff "Service to Others" Award to **Helen P. Schmitt**, '71, of Silver Spring. She recently retired as a data-management specialist with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. After work hours and on weekends, she had been involved in many different local, state, and national deaf organizations as a volunteer in different capacities ranging from committee member, coordinator, chairperson, logistics assistant, editor, typist, reunion/conference registration worker, deaf-blind interpreter, newsletter/publication editor, and fund-raising committee member. In her citation, it says in part, "Helena's retirement from the "9 to 5" grind is a big boon for the Deaf Community. Well known for years, inside and outside the metro Washington D.C. area, as a generous volunteer, there is literally a line of organizations eager for a piece of her time. A whiz on the computer, Helena is also extremely well organized, detailed, and possesses excellent cognitive skills. As a loyal Gallaudet alumna, and now presently volunteers one day a week for the Office of Alumni Relations."

The LCCF Laurent Clerc Award for outstanding social contributions by a Deaf person in the interests of Deaf people was presented to **Alexander "Sandy" Ewan**. His citation explains in part, "For his loyalty to the ideals of Gallaudet University, Sandy is a true "Gallaudetian" in every sense. A testament to his exemplary qualities as a leader is his major role in the establishment of the Bison Booster Club at Gallaudet University in 1990. As the club's Executive Director, he has steered the club into a presence that is a powerful support for Gallaudet athletics and a catalyst° for uniting deaf and hard-of-hearing people in achieving praiseworthy goals. Indeed, under his patronage, the club has become an institution in itself within the venerable institution that is Gallaudet University."

The LCCF Alice Cogswell Award for valuable services on behalf of Deaf people went to **Marilyn J. Smith**, '74 & G-'77, of Seattle, Washington. She is currently the Executive Director of the Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services (ADWAS), a non-profit organization that she founded in 1986. "Marilyn Smith's contributions to the Deaf community, especially to Deaf women, transcends purely professional accomplishments. Ms. Smith successfully obtained local, state, and federal grants to expand the ADWAS model program. The program has grown from services for Deaf and

Deaf-Blind victims of sexual assault and domestic violence and sexually-abused children to counseling, advocacy, information-and-referral services, crisis intervention, safe-home placement, legal advocacy, positive deaf parenting program, and community resources and referrals. Recently, ADWAS became a training institute for other major cities to adopt similar services and programs. She continues to inspire us all with her great insights into human nature, her belief in the resilience of the spirit, and her sincerity in guiding those who would wish for a better life for themselves."

The LCCF Edward Miner Gallaudet Award for recognition of national or international leaders for promoting the well-being of Deaf people was presented to **Eiichi Takada** of Japan. His citation read in part, "Through his personal and professional life, Eiichi Takada has forever changed history for deaf people in Japan. He has been actively involved in the World Federation of the Deaf for more than thirty years, becoming the first Japanese to be appointed to the WFD Board of directors, and head of the Asia and Pacific Regional Office. Among his life's goals are the improvement of welfare standards, driver's licensee acquisition, awareness of sign language, sign-language research, reform of discriminatory laws, and deaf movement on an international level. It is to the world's advantage that Mr. Takada continues to apply himself selflessly to these goals."

The LCCF Amos Kendall Award for notable excellence in a professional field not related to deafness went to **Mark S. Fisher**, '81, of Sherman Oaks, California. He works at Universal Cartoon Studios in Hollywood. His citation explains in part, "Mark Fisher referred to 'developing unending faith in oneself' as an essential formula for success. It is evident that he has lived by and mastered this criteria. To wit, his solid credibility as an animator, storyboard artist, and filmmaker. In his work, Mr. Fisher consistently exhibits a rare combination of highly developed technical skills, a compelling and entertaining creativity, and the integrity of a role model who will continue to succeed with vigor and resolve."

The guests of honor gave their meaningful and powerful speeches about their work in their professional/personal lives, and shared their thanks with the audience. They joined the audience to learn new insights about DPN as Bravin told eight tales from his days as the chair of the Gallaudet University President Search Committee in 1988. His tales are now documented.

After attending the annual Charter Day Awards and Program at the GUKCC from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the guests said that they liked the idea of having the program following the luncheon and an opportunity to mingle with friends and award recipients during and after the afternoon program. Based on their feedback, the annual event will no longer held in the evening; it will continue as a luncheon.

—**Daphne Cox McGregor**, '82
Associate Director, Office of Alumni Relations
Gallaudet University

✏ Deaf founders of schools for the deaf include Laurent Clerc (co-founder/American), **William** and **Eliza Willard** (Indiana), **Philip A. Emery** (Kansas), **Joseph Mount** (Arkansas), **Alphonso Johnson** (co-founder/New York State), Rev. **Jacob M. Koehler** (Scranton State), **Henry C. White** (Utah and Arizona), **Thomas H. Coleman** (Florida), **Lars M. Larson** (New Mexico), **Anson R. Spear** (North Dakota), **Mr.** and **Mrs. Ellsworth Long** (Oklahoma), and **William C. Ritter** (Virginia at Hampton). In the 20th century, **Douglas J.N. Burke** became the first deaf person to found and head a postsecondary institution: SouthWest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf in Big Spring, Texas.

✏ For more on the Magnet School of the Deaf and Moers, see our January 1998 cover story.

catalyst: a chemistry term—literally, a chemical that starts or sets off a reaction; a *reactant*. More broadly, a person, group, or even an incident or quote that makes things happen.

WRITING "FOR REAL REASONS"

Davi Cass Scott, 15, of Lusk, Wyoming, was the grand-prize winner in the "Biggest Challenge" essay contest sponsored by Gallaudet University's Pre-College National Mission Programs (PCNMP) and School of Education and Human Services (SEHS). Her entry, "Memories of Shel," about her beloved older brother, who died young, won $1500 towards her college or postsecondary education.

Scott's essay was rated at the top of 235 entries that focused on the questions: "What was my biggest challenge? How did I face it?" Deaf and hard-of-hearing students throughout the United States, Russia, Australia, and the Philippines submitted entries. They wrote about a variety of topics, including: communication with their parents and peers, adjusting to their lives as first-generation Americans, and struggles to succeed academically.

Contest judges were: **Connie Briscoe**, the best-selling author who is herself deaf; **Michelle Listisard**, Coordinator of NAD Youth Programs (and a **DEAF LIFE** columnist); Dr. **David Martin**, Gallaudet professor, who planned to do some of his reading on an airplane between meetings; **David Schleper**, PCNMP Literacy Coordinator and developer of the Shared Reading Project; and **Janet Weinstock**, PCNMP Literacy Teacher Specialist and Lead Teacher for Team 3-4-5

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"An essay contest encourages students to write—and to write for real reasons," said Dr. **Jane Fernandes**, Gallaudet's Vice President of PCNMP. "It demonstrates Gallaudet's commitment in developing student literacy throughout the nation. We have to give credit to all the students who participated and to the many teachers who encouraged their participation."

Dr. **William McCrone**, Dean of SEHS, added, "We are gratified the contest became an important event in the lives of

deaf and hard-of-hearing students. It is important to see that these students are recognized for their very real challenges and contributions. The entries are revealing for what they say about the lives of deaf and hard-of-hearing students in today's world."

All contest entrants received certificates of participation. All winners and their teachers also received complimentary subscriptions to **World Around You**, Gallaudet University's magazine for deaf and hard-of-hearing teenagers.

Darcy White, second-place winner from Ames, Iowa, who equated life as a hard-of-hearing person with being a "blue rose," received a $100 cash award. **Amber Leigh Romney**, third-place winner from Mesa, Arizona, who wrote about her success as a deaf cheerleader in a mainstream school, received $50. **Carrie Suggs**, honorable-mention winner from Staunton, Virginia, who wrote on "Accepting Deafness—And Myself," received $25. **Laquanda Diana** of Blacksburg, South Carolina, who wrote about the challenge of losing both her hearing and her hands in a fire when she was 11 years old, received a copy of **Movers and Shakers: Deaf People Who Changed the World**. Special recognition was also extended to finalists—**Jonathan Lagone** and **Lisa Andrews** of Framingham, Massachusetts, and **Katie Greiman** of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Excerpts from winning contest entries

✍ Davi Cass Scott, "Memories of Shel"

It didn't matter to Shel that I was hard of hearing. Shel would talk to me and sign . . . He wanted to learn to sign because he thought it was cool. . . . Shel said, "We don't have to tell mom we are signing."

✍ Darcy White, "Blue Roses "

My parents tried to explain to me how I was different because I was hearing impaired, but from my perspective I was exactly like the girl across the street with whom I played every day. But when I reached first grade, the image of being "like every other kid" ceased.

"You talk funny!" a classmate exclaimed in front of her friends.

"You sure talk dumb!" cried out a boy.

✍ Carrie Suggs, "Accepting Deafness—And Myself

One day, my dad made the decision to send me to a strange school full of people like me. I was upset at the thought of going away to a strange place alone. I vividly remember my first day, watching hands fly in the air, talking in my native tongue. I clung to my mother all day . . . . Within a couple of months, I had become my own person. . . . I began to be proud of who I was..

✍ Amber Leigh Romney, "Silent Cheer"

People are in the stands yelling uproariously. The band is blasting music. Referees are blowing their whistles. On the sidelines, I dance and cheer with 20 other girls and what do I hear?

Silence.

Do I let this disability get in the way of cheering for the school I love?

No!

✍ Laquanda Diana, "No Hands is No Handicap"

My biggest challenge is being deaf and having no hands. I don't really think of myself as being handicapped because I can do almost anything a normal teen can do. I play a lot of basketball. I can cook. I can write. . . . I do these things and a lot of other things without the use of a prosthesis.° The only things I use to help me are hearing aids.

prosthesis: (*noun, singular*) an artificial device that replaces a lost or missing limb or organ, e.g., an artificial hand or leg. A prosthesis can be *cosmetic* (for looks) or *functional* (for use), or both. Some persons who have been born with malformed or missing hands, or who have lost them in an explosion, fire, war, disease, injury, frostbite, or other catastrophe, adapt to using prostheses (the plural form). Others manage well without them.

"OPENING OUR EYES": N.J. STUDENTS VISIT HOLOCAUST SITES

While most high school students were planning recreational spring trips to the beach or mountains, ten students applied for and were chosen to study the Holocaust° in the Czech Republic and Poland. Five students from the Bergen County Special Services Hearing Impaired high-school program and five hearing students, all of whom attend Midland Park High School, traveled to the cities of Prague, Krakow, and Warsaw, and toured several concentration camps during May. The group represented students from various religious and cultural backgrounds.

Roger Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal of Midland Park High School, and **Colleen Tambuscio**, a Bergen County Special Services teacher of the deaf and Holocaust educator, accompanied the students, together with their guide, Mr. **Shalmi Barmore,** a scholarly historian who directs the Center for Education and Culture for the Jewish Museum of Prague.

The goal of the trip was for the students to gain a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and the attitudes associated with it. Fitzgerald explained, "We want the kids to ask the questions such as 'Why did this happen?' and 'Where is this happening now in the world?' The students will spend their days touring the cultural and historical sites and comparing the past with the present. They will be encouraged to ask themselves, 'How did this era occur?,' 'How does this impact the people and their culture now?' By walking the streets and seeing the actual buildings, they will be able to personalize the Holocaust and imagine what it was like for the Jews, the

mentally and physically handicapped, Gypsies, Communists, Socialists, religious leaders, and others unacceptable to the Nazi Regime.

"We will lead the students through lectures, tours, discussions and journal-writing to engage them in struggling with the issues arising from this experience," said Tambuscio, who embarked on a similar trip to Eastern Europe and Israel last summer as part of an educational task force organized by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. Because of her passionate interest in studying and teaching about the Holocaust, the Bergen County Special Services Secondary Hearing Impaired Program was recently designated as a demonstration site for Holocaust education by the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. The Holocaust and Genocide Curriculum became a state-mandated curriculum in 1994 signed into law by Governor **Christie Todd Whitman** requiring schools in New Jersey to teach children about the Holocaust and other genocides.

When the students were asked why they wanted to take the trip, they were eager to give their reasons. **Michelle Ramos**, a senior from East Rutherford, said, "I am interested in expanding my knowledge about racial conflict." **Josh Marchal**, a senior from Midland Park, said, "History is my favorite subject. This will help open our eyes and while this was not from our time, we will learn how a cruel person could decimate another group of people." **Israel Rivera**, a sophomore from Paterson, said, "I want to go on this trip to know what the Jewish people went through and how they were murdered or how they survived and why." They also wanted to learn more about Polish and European history and culture. It was also an opportunity for at least one of the students to explore his roots. **John Kuduk**, a senior from Wallington, went on the trip because his parents came from Poland. "My parents went through World War II when they were young in Poland. I want to learn more about what they experienced."

Tambuscio expects these students to effect change in the school. "By studying the biases that led to brutality, we expect the students to learn tolerance and acceptance. We anticipate that these students will become leaders and effect change that we hope will permeate the school." Midland Park High School, like many Bergen County high schools, has established an E.R.A.S.E. (Eliminate Racism and Sexism Everywhere) program, to initiate tolerance training and awareness programs that explore diversity.

In January, the students began a fundraising effort to pay for the trip. It cost $2,000 per student. The school sought sponsors interested in supporting this educational program. It received funding from several philanthropic sources. Quality Health Care Providers, owned by Dr. **M. Karmir**, the United Jewish Federation of Bergen County, The Commission on Holocaust Education, and both the Ramapo Holocaust Resource Center and the Fairleigh Dickinson University Holocaust Resource Center pledged their financial support.

— **Ruellen B. Eisen**

Holocaust: a sacrificial offering that is completely burned (destroyed) by fire; complete destruction. With a capital "H," it refers to the systematic torture and murder by the Nazis and their allies of 6 million Jews, including a million children, and many Romanies (Gypsies), Catholics, homosexuals, "enemies of the state," political and religious dissenters, and "defectives" (deaf, handicapped, and mentally-ill persons). Other young deaf people, who were lucky to have survived at all, were forcibly sterilized. It was one of the darkest, most horrible times in the history of the world.—Editors

GLEASON'S GIFT: GOOD VIBES!

The Gleason Foundation has awarded a grant of $21,922 to the Rochester School for the Deaf to fund a Multisensory Sound Laboratory.

This innovative technology will enhance the ability of RSD students to learn English, to understand physics, and to appreciate poetry. Through specially designed equipment, students will be able to experience sound through vibrations and colorful visual displays. Learning to detect environmental sounds will provide students with feelings of safety and connectedness to their worlds.

"There are many major educational benefits to this new laboratory," said Superintendent **Harold Mowl**. "From early intervention with deaf infants to auditory training, speech therapy, physics, music therapy, physical therapy, dance instruction and performance, parent education, and relaxation activities, this grant from the Gleason Foundation will help to build the futures of deaf children. We are most grateful for their generous support."

UPCOMING CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, WORKSHOPS, & FESTIVALS

MUSIC, A RIVER, GREAT FOOD, FUN, & ACCESS!

For the first time, Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival festival—the 32nd one—will be held in Dutchess County, moving north while returning to its namesake river after a decade inland.

"The Clearwater" is perhaps the nation's oldest and largest annual environmental arts and music festival. This eclectic family event comes to the riverfront campus of Marist College, in Poughkeepsie, after 10 years at Westchester Community College in Valhalla, New York. It's being held Father's Day Weekend, Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to dusk both days.

Other new features—all by advance reservation only—include on-site camping for the public, special lodging packages, and sails on the sloop *Clearwater*, as an optional

add-on to the festival experience. Traditionally, three-quarters of the festival audience, whose numbers can reach 20,000 over the weekend, came from outside Westchester.

"We are delighted to host Clearwater's renowned festival as a natural outgrowth of our environmental science program, the orientation of our campus toward the Hudson River, and the developing riverfront greenway between Waryas Park and our future Longview Park," said **Dennis J. Murray**, President of Marist College "The festival will be a tremendous boon to the tourism, culture, and community spirit of the area."

A total of over 50 performers on five stages will be featured, with the music including diverse styles ranging from folk, jazz, blues, and world traditions. Topping the bill are: *David Amram Quartet*, *Judy Collins* (Saturday only), bluesman *Guy Davis*, folkrockers *The Nields* (Sunday only), *Odetta* (Sunday only), *Toshi Reagon and Big-Lovely* (Sat. only), *Pete Seeger*, and the *Paul Winter Consort* (Sunday only). Musical offerings also include mid-Hudson ska favorites *Perfect Thyroid* (Sat. only) and performers in the West African, Latin American, Portuguese, Bulgarian Gypsy, and Native American traditions.

Other features of the annual benefit event include children's performances and storytelling; participatory dancing; jury-selected crafts; new vaudevillians such as jugglers, clowns, and mimes; ethnic foods; and environmental displays.

The Clearwater festival was originated in October, 1966, by Pete Seeger, who held a "Folk Picnic" in a meadow in Garrison, New York, to raise money for the construction of the sloop *Clearwater*. The Folk Picnic grew into an almost annual event, and in 1978 was renamed and scaled up to become Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival, held annually ever since. It was held on the shores of the Hudson River in Westchester County's Croton Point Park in Croton from 1978 to 1987. The festival then moved inland to the Westchester Community College in Valhalla from 1988 through 1997.

The festival was chosen as one of the Top 100 Events in North America in 1997 by the American Bus Association. In its 15-year history, this prestigious award-recognized as a "mark of excellence" within the domestic-tourism industry—was presented only to one other site in Westchester County.

The festival is the major community outreach effort benefiting Hudson River Sloop *Clearwater*, Inc., a non-profit, member-supported environmental organization that conducts education, celebration, and advocacy activities to protect the Hudson River. The organization has been based in Poughkeepsie since the mid-'70s. Its full-size replica wooden sloop *Clearwater* is a floating classroom, providing educational programs for 15,000 children and adults annually. She is collectively owned by 12,000 *Clearwater* members and can be seen at dozens of smaller waterfront festivals throughout the year, many organized by sloop clubs associated with the Clearwater organization.

Today, some 750 volunteers play a major role in hosting the Clearwater Revival festival. The event is also considered by many festival aficionados° to have set the standard for inclusiveness.

It is fully accessible to people with disabilities, continuing a commitment made 18 years ago. At that time it was perhaps the first music festival for a general audience to be ASL-interpreted for Deaf and hard-of-hearing participants. All performances continue to be interpreted, and Braille and large-print programs, wheelchairs, special van service and parking, TTYs, wheelchair-accessible telephones and restrooms, and medical services supervised by St. Francis Hospital, are all available.

For ticket information, call ☎(914) 454-7691 (TTY); ☎800-67-SLOOP (Voice/toll-free); ❒(914) 454-7953 (FAX); or ❖revival@mail.clearwater.org (E-mail). Performance schedules and detailed directions to the Festival site are available on Clearwater's Website, ✱www.clearwater.org. Address: 112 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

For information about the Hudson Line railway/shuttle package to Poughkeepsie, call ☎800-METROINFO (Voice); in New York City, ☎(212) 532-4900. The festival site is less than two hours from Grand Central or 125th Street Stations in New York City.

This year's co-sponsors include American Airlines, Bell Atlantic, and Ben & Jerry's.

aficionados: (*noun, plural*) enthusiastic admirers or followers; devotees; buffs; fans. (From a Spanish word for *affection*.)

DIVERSITY IN ACTION—OR ON PAPER?

The American Library Association is holding its annual conference in Washington, D.C., during the last week in June. A preconference, *Literacy and Deaf Kids: The Librarian's Role*, will meet at Gallaudet University on Thursday, June 25, 6 to 9 p.m. and on Friday, June 26, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA), in cooperation with the Friends of the D.C. Public Library Services to the Deaf Community, will have a booth (#308) at the ALA Conference during exhibit hours: Saturday, June 27 to Monday, June 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 30, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The ALA is holding a Diversity Fair on Saturday, June 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. Libraries of all types have submitted descriptions of their diversity initiatives. Examples of the "best practices of diversity in action" will be selected to exhibit posters and other materials. Something to watch for: if the deaf community or hearing loss will be included in the Fair.

CHICAGO, HERE WE COME!

The Tenth International Conference of the Association of Late-Deafened Adults—*Aldacon 1998/Back To The Future/ Back to Chicago*—will be held September 2-6, at the Swissotel in Chicago.

Dr. I. King Jordan, President of Gallaudet University, will present the annual I. King Jordan Award. Dr. Robert Davila, Vice President of RIT and Director of NTID, will be a featured keynote speaker.

The first ALDAcon (Chicago 1989) brought together late-deafened people from across the U.S. and Canada. That conference planted the seeds for ALDA's growth. Subsequent conferences have encouraged more growth and helped ALDA reach its goals: 1) to develop awareness of the uniqueness of our experience as deafened people, and (2) to learn from—and grow with—one another.

Areas of concern, including workshops, will be:

- Career Changes/Adaptations
- Technology
- NF2 (Neurofibromatosis)
- Care of Our Relationships/Ourselves
- Self-Advocacy/Self-Esteem
- CART (Computer Assisted Real-Time Captioning)
- Self-Help (RAP)
- Sign Language, Cued speech, Speech Reading
- Family Miscommunications

Workshops will cover a wide range of related topics, including mental-health services, constructive assertiveness, hearing-technology research, cochlear implants, and surviving family communication.

At this stage of its growth, it's natural for ALDAns to review and evaluate ALDA's development, while planning for its future, keeping in mind that adjustment to life without hearing is a continual process. Late-deafened people are invited to share their ideas, experiences, and knowledge. Proposals for presentations, workshops, or personal-experience panel discussions are welcome. There are 5 tracks, with suggested topics:

Learning to Live with Deafness

Experiencing late onset of deafness

Deafness and . . . NF2/Ménière's Syndrome/Over the hill and loving it!

The ADA and . . . everyday life/TV captioning/911 access

Employment

Career changes; adaptations; technology; the interview (using communications assistance); deafened professionals.

Care of Our Relationships/Ourselves

Communication issues in the family; self-advocacy & self-esteem; couples issues: maintaining independence; keeping Grandma (Mom) a significant family member; journal writing; lifestyles; fitness training; relaxation; T'ai Chi; hobbies.

Communication/Accessibility

CART in the classroom; Cued Speech as an alternate quick communication for the family; encouraging the family to use the relay (why VCO?); telecommunications; all about sign language: an introductory course; all about lip-reading: an introductory course.

Organizational Matters

Fund-raising; chapter leadership; newsletters; how to start a group or chapter; personal and group outreach; finding others who are late-deafened.

For information, contact **Karen Krull**, Chair, at ☎(708) 422-1214 (TTY), ☎(708) 422-1213 (Voice), ❒(815) 789-4459 FAX or ❖GottaBeKK@aol.com (E-mail). Complete ALDAcon '98 details, including registration and committee members, are listed on ALDA's Website: ✷www.alda.org. Registration information is in the **National ALDA Newsletter**. Or contact ALDA Chicago, P.O. Box 785, Bedford Park, IL 60499.

BRIEFLY NOTED

➨ The "47" Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc. is celebrating the 90th anniversary of J.H.S. 47 School for the Deaf, starting Thursday, June 11. Contact the "47" Alumni Association of the Deaf, Inc., J.H.S. 47 School for the Deaf, 225 East 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010; ❒(212) 685-9614 (FAX).

➨ The University of Utah School on Alcoholism and other Drug Dependencies is offering a specialized session focusing on substance-abuse issues within the Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, June 14-19. Contact The Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals at ☎1-800-282-3323 (TTY/Voice).

➨ *Deaf People in Hitler's Europe (1933-1945)* is being held June 21-24 at the GUKCC. Contact: Professors **John Schuchman** and **Donna Ryan** of Gallaudet's History and Government Department at ☎(202) 651-5474 (TTY/Voice, ❒(202) 651-5652 (FAX); ❖jsschuchman@gallua.gallaudet.edu or ❖dfryan@gallua.gallaudet.edu.

➨ The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf is holding its 1998 International Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, from June 29 to July 3. Contact Dr. **J. Tilak Ratnanather** at ❖tilak@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu. Website: ✷http://www.agbell.org.

➨ The *National NAD Conference* is being held July 7-11 in San Antonio, Texas. Theme: "Branding Our Future: Leading, Not Lassoed." ❖NADHQ@juno.com.

➨ The Pennsylvania Society for Advancement of the Deaf is holding its convention July 23-26, at Pocono Manor Inn, Pocono Manor. Contact **Carl Frels**, ☎(717) 342-1170 (TTY), ❖cfrels@email.msn.com.

➨ California School for the Deaf, Fremont is hosting the Junior National Association of the Deaf's 16th Biennial National Convention from July 24 to 29. Contact: **Diana Herron Rhodes** at ☎(510) 794-3708 (TTY), ❒(510) 794-9250 (FAX), or ❖diana@csdf.cde.ca.gov, or write to her at CSDF, Outreach Division, 39350 Gallaudet Drive, Fremont, CA 94538.

➨ "Silent Partners," a gala tennis/evening benefit event for the American Society for Deaf Children, is being held on July 25 in Portland, Oregon. ☎1-800-942-ASDC (2732).

➨ The National Black Deaf Advocates (NBDA) is holding its 16th Annual Conference at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, August 10-16. Contact: **Donald Tinsley** at ☎(317) 233-5009 (TTY) or ❖ICBDA@aol.com, or **Deka Kloepfer** at ☎(317) 232-1143 (TTY/Voice).

➨ The fifth annual *Intertribal Deaf Council of North America* will be held near Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, from August 11 to 14. Contact **Vernon Eyaphpaise**, P. O.

Box 265, Duck Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada S0K-1J0, ☎(306) 467-2204 (TTY/Voice), ❐(306) 467-4407 (FAX).

➨ The *1998 National Jewish Deaf Congress Convention* (22nd Biennial Convention), will be held August 11-15, at Universal City, California. Host: Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf. Contact: Convention Chair **Fred Lovitch**, ☎(818) 896-6721 (TTY), ☎(818) 899-2202 (Voice), ❐(818) 899-2123 (FAX), ❖flovitch@aol.com.

➨ Signs of Sobriety, Inc., will host a 4-Day "SoberCamp for Deaf Adults in Recovery and their Families" at Camp Kirby in Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, from August 24 to 27. Presenters wanted. Signs of Sobriety, Inc., 865 Lower Ferry Road, Suite B9, Ewing, NJ 08628. Or call ☎(609) 882-7177 (TTY); ☎❐(609) 882-7677 (Voice/FAX); ❖SOSNJ@juno.com (E-mail).

➨ The Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness will hold its 28th Annual Conference, *Expanding Horizons: A Peak into the 21st Century*, at the Radisson Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina, November 1-4. Contact: **Terry Kemp**, NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, P.O. Box 26053, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 or call ☎(919) 733-5924 (TTY) or ☎(919) 733-3364 (Voice).

➨ The *Sixth International Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research* (TISLR 98) will be held November 12-15. Contact: **Mike Kemp**, Department Chair, TISLR 98 Abstracts, Department of ASL, Linguistics, and Interpretation, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. 20002 (USA). Accepted papers must be submitted by October 1. Communications about the conference, including registration, lodging, and program information, are being handled via the conference Website: ✱http://www.gallaudet.edu/~aslweb/tislr98/ .❖info_tislr@gallua.gallaudet.edu.

➨ *The First International Conference on Deaf Education & Technology: "Tools for the 21st Century*," will be held November 17-22, in conjunction with Deaf Awareness Week, in Bermuda. Contact: **Jennifer Jeffers-Grant**, Chair, 1st International Conference on Deafness, P.O. Box 1749, Hamilton HM GX, Bermuda; ☎❐(441) 238-8116 (TTY/FAX); ❖jeffers@ibl.bm.

➨ The 28th *Quadrennial Convention of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf* will be held at Buena Vista Palace at Walt Disney Village World. near Orlando, Florida, July 22-24, 1999. Contacts: Convention Chair **Doris Berman**, ☎(954) 720-5619 (TTY) or ❐(954) 721-8852 (FAX); **Manny Golden**, ☎(904) 797-3817 (TTY) or ❐(904) 794-1679 (FAX).

➨ Florida Association of the Deaf will host the NAD Region III Conference at Sea Turtle Inn (One Ocean Blvd., Atlantic Beach, Jacksonville, FL 32233) from November 12-14, 1999. States represented are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Contact: **Alexander Fleischman**, 4960 E. Sabal Palm Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33319; ☎(954) 977-7887 (TTY); ❐(954) 984-9198 (FAX).

OH, THOSE LUCKY CHICAGOANS!

The Chicagoland Deaf Parent-to-Parent Project was established to meet the unique needs of hearing parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children, ranging from birth to 6 years of age, and is a collaborative effort of Jewish Family and Community Service (JFCS) and Mount Sinai Hospital's Mental Health Program for Deaf Adults and Children (MENDAC). Both JFCS and MENDAC have been instrumental for many years in providing community mental-health and family-counseling services to deaf adults and children. JFCS and MENDAC are now offering Family Life Education workshops as a prevention service to families with young deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

The Deaf Parent-to-Parent Project, which is entering its third year, is funded by a priority grant from the United Way of Chicago/Crusade of Mercy. Over the last two years, the Project has been providing beginning-level educational and experiential workshops for hearing parents of deaf and hard-of-hearing children [including those with multiple disabilities], within the Chicago area. "We serve families and children regardless of the communication mode utilized." The workshops are co-led by a social worker and a psychologist, with assistance from deaf parents of deaf children who function as supportive role models. The four workshops, lasting two hours each, are conducted in the schools and at other community sites. Some of the topics covered in the workshops are: 1) Making reading fun: how to read to young deaf children and making; 2) Thinking visually: how to make the home environment more predictable and visually accessible to deaf children; 3) Behavioral management; 4) nonverbal games that the whole family can play; and 4) Helpful hints for daily living. Advanced workshops for parents who have completed the beginning workshops will be offered soon. These advanced workshops will focus on enhancing parents' behavior-management skills and building on previously learned skills.

In addition to providing workshops for parents, staff are available to provide one-to-one counseling services to families in need. Services offered would include assessment, community linkage and advocacy. The Deaf Parent-to-Parent Project staff are available for in-service training and/or consulting with professionals and agencies.

The first Family Life Education workshops are being held on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m., June 20 and 27 and July 11 and 18, at Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center, 15th and California, Chicago. The program is free and open to all families in the metropolitan Chicago area. Spanish-language workshops are also available.

"Our program is specifically tailored to meet the needs of hearing parents of deaf or hard-of-hearing young children who have other disabilities," said **Lynda Myers**, LCSW, coordinator of the Deaf Services program for Jewish Family and

Community Service. "Parents are often devastated when they learn their child is deaf or hard-of-hearing. When there are additional disabilities, they can feel overwhelmed. It helps if we can meet with parents before the workshops begin, to identify individual needs. We can make arrangements to meet with a parent in the home or office or at the child's school."

For information on upcoming workshops, call Lynda Myers at JFCS, ☎(847) 568-5240 (TTY) or ☎(847) 568-5200 (Voice); or **Suzanne Burley**, Ph.D., at Mount Sinai Hospital/ MENDAC, or ☎(773) 257-6959 (TTY) or ☎(773) 2574866 (Voice).

Background: The Chicagoland Deaf Parent-to-Parent Project is a joint program of JFCS and Mount Sinai Hospital's MENDAC Program, affiliate agencies of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago supported by the Jewish United Fund. JFCS is located on Ben Gurion Way, 1 South Franklin Street, Chicago, IL 60606-4669; ☎(312) 357-4800 (Voice).

SOMETHING FOR THE KIDS

The second Annual Deaf Kids Fest, hosted by the Chicagoland Deaf Parent-to-Parent Project, is being held on Sunday, June 14, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Chicago Club of the Deaf, 4221 West Irving Park (just off the Kennedy Expressway), Chicago 60641. Deaf performer **Magic Morgan** will be on hand to entertain the children. Babies, toddlers, and children up to age 6 are welcome.

"We're looking forward to the Deaf Kids Fest," said JFCS's Lynda Myers. "It's a fun time for very young children who are deaf and an opportunity for their parents to network with each other and with the deaf parents." Families that have participated in the Chicagoland Deaf Parent-to-Parent Project are welcome to come, regardless of their children's ages.

For information, see contact numbers above.

NOW THERE ARE TWO!

To better serve the community, Chicago Hearing Society is now operating at 2001 N. Clybourn (ZIP 60614), in addition to 332 South Michigan Avenue (ZIP 60604).

At the new 2001 North Clybourn site, Chicago Hearing Society offers interpreter-referral service, social services, youth program, Camp Sign, preschool screening, open-captioned movie-ticket sales, and the new Deaf Victim Assistance Program. Telephone numbers are ☎(773) 248-9174 (TTY); ☎(773) 248-9121 (Voice); and ❐(773) 248-9176 (FAX).

Services at South Michigan Avenue include sign language-classes, hearing-aid sales and service, hearing-aid bank, audiology services, and ITAC TTY distribution. Telephone numbers are ☎(312) 427-2166 (TTY); ☎(312) 939-6888 (Voice); and ❐(312) 347-0026 (FAX).

Background: Chicago Hearing Society is a division of Anixter Center, a nonprofit charitable human-services agency that assists people with disabilities to live and work in the community. Administration Office: 6610 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60626-4062; ☎(773) 973-2180 (TTY); ☎(773) 973-7900 (Voice). General Information: ☎(773) 973-2001 (TTY); ☎(773) 273-1000 (Voice); ✷www.anixter.org (Web).

MORE SERVICES, MORE OPTIONS

The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, Westchester Division, is expanding its Outpatient Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services to the Payne Whitney Clinic, 425 East 61st Street (between First and York Avenues), New York, NY 10021; ☎(212) 821-0741. Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Outpatient, Inpatient, Day Treatment, and Rehabilitation Training services are also available at the New York Hospital-Westchester Division, 21 Bloomingdale Road, White Plains, NY 10605.

These services include comprehensive psychiatric evaluations, medication evaluations and monitoring, and individual/ family/couple/group psychotherapies. Referrals for the following groups are now being accepted at both Payne Whitney Clinic and the Westchester Division:

- ✚ Parenting Skills Groups for deaf/HH parents and hearing parents with deaf/HH children
- ✚ Men's and Women's Groups
- ✚ HIV/AIDS Groups
- ✚ Hearing Toddlers of Deaf Parents

For further information, contact:

Jeff Wax, CSW, Program Manager, ☎(212) 821-0741 (TTY/Voice) and ☎(914) 997-4316 (TTY/Voice)

Kathy Grosz, ACSW, Staff Social Worker, at ☎(914) 997-4344 (TTY/Voice)

Kathleen Friedman, CSW, CSC, Director, at ☎(914) 9974318 (TTY/Voice)

ZANESVILLE CELEBRATES

On May 17, Deaf Services Center (Ohio) celebrated the grand opening of its new branch office, Southeast Community Center of the Deaf (SCCD), at the Masonic Temple, 38 North 4th Street, Suite 208, Zanesville, Ohio 43702-2832. It was established in response to the needs and wishes of Southeast Ohio's Deaf Community. SCCD services include sign-language interpreting, advocacy, information/referral, ADA technical assistance, peer support, and speaker's bureau.

SCCD is staffed on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. However, its services can be accessed Monday through Friday by calling ☎(740) 455-2000 (TTY/Voice) or ❐(740) 455-6095

MINNESOTA PROGRAM NEARS 10-YEAR MARK

What began 9 years ago as a model treatment program serving only Deaf and hard-of-hearing clients has become much more. In the beginning, the task of designing and creating an appropriate, culture-specific treatment program was the major challenge. Professionals in the education, chemical-dependency-treatment, and mental-health professions came together to design this unique program. Since then, it has implemented modified approaches, culturally-specific treatment, and service delivery in modes of communication matching those used by its clients. Through the years, these methods have been customized and today, these approaches are used as a model for treatment programs throughout the nation.

The staff of the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals have found that while they are a leader in chemical-dependency treatment for Deaf/HH persons, an added task has become one of advocating to improve treatment and aftercare services for this group of people. Acute, primary chemical-dependency treatment makes up only a small percentage of a recovering person's life. Therefore, appropriate intervention, assessment, referral, aftercare services, and ongoing support are vital.

Some of the accomplishments of the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals within the last year include:

✚ Serving on a legislative committee to establish a training requirement for chemical-dependency counselors.

✚ Securing state grants to provide prevention materials and outreach to the Deaf/HH community.

✚ Creating and offering a graduate-level certificate program in chemical dependency rehabilitation for Deaf/HH persons.

✚ Reaching a milestone of treating over 600 clients from the United States and Canada.

✚ Creation of a Best Practices Manual for providers of aftercare services in Minnesota.

On March 15, 1999, the Program will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Future goals include:

✚ Creating a newsletter for recovering Deaf/HH persons;

✚ Providing ongoing training to professionals in Minnesota and across the nation;

✚ Continuing to make the program offerings available to all clients of various ethnic backgrounds and those who are traditionally underserved.

✚ Continued effort toward a national referral, treatment, and aftercare network for deaf/HH people.

✚ Hosting a national chemical-dependency convention.

As the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Individuals comes into its ninth-and-a-half year of existence; its staff hope to continue to grow and change to meet the needs of the Deaf/HH clients who need it. (FAX).

TAKING BACK THE NIGHT— AND THE DAY

Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) has a Deaf & Disabled Services Program that provides in-person and TTY peer counseling, support-group counseling, hospital and/or court accompaniment, legal advocacy, Temporary Restraining Order assistance, and shelter assistance for women who are survivors of domestic violence/relationship abuse, sexual assault, and rape.

LACAAW's Deaf & Disabled Services also provides in-service staff and volunteer training on "Deaf Cultural Awareness," "Issues of Domestic Violence in the Deaf Community," "Inter-generational Cycles of Abuse," and "Child Abuse issues Within the Deaf Community" for agencies and shelters providing services to deaf and hard-of-hearing clients.

Public education is provided on issues of Domestic/ Relationship Violence, Sexual Assault, Rape, Child Abuse, Incest, and Stalking, with emphasis on issues particular to the Deaf, physically disabled, and/or developmentally disabled populations. "Training the Trainer" workshops are available for agencies working with these special populations.

"Deaf Kids' Self-Defense and Safety" is a child-abuse-prevention curriculum developed and piloted in Southern California by LACAAW. This curriculum is taught in schools, scouts, boy's and girl's clubs, churches, etc. with a goal to empower the child to act on their own behalf. This program is available to all children, with modified versions available for children with disabilities

"In Touch With Teens" is an innovative curriculum that teaches junior- and senior-high-school-age teens how to build violence-free relationships.

LACAAW also provides In Power Women's Self-Defense Training and Personal Security Awareness Training programs, with individually adapted techniques for elderly and disabled persons.

The Deaf Services Volunteer Task Force provides community education on issues of domestic violence, child abuse, rape/sexual assault, services offered by LACAAW; school-based violence-prevention education, and court and shelter advocacy.

Program Coordinator is **Peggie Reyna**; Program Co-Coordinator is **K. J. McCune**.

All services of LACAAW are available in English, Spanish, and ASL.

LACAAW recently moved. Its new address is 605 West Olympic Blvd., Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90015. For further information, for counseling/advocacy services, or to join the Volunteer Task Force, call ☎(913) 955-9095 (TTY) or ☎(913) 955-9090, extension 105 (Voice).

A WARM HEART, AN ICY DEATH

Thomas Bennett, 42, was Deaf, and loved animals. He and his small household lived in a trailer in rural Butler County, 70 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. On January 18, he died after trying to rescue his beloved Rottweiler, Black Bear, who had fallen through the ice of a frozen-over fishing pond.

The tragedy began in the morning when Black Bear broke free from his chain, strayed onto the pond, and fell through the thin ice. Bennett rushed after him. A neighbor, **Leonard Hartle**, screamed out to Bennett in a futile attempt to warn him that the ice was too thin to bear his weight. Unable to hear Hartle's frantic warnings (not that it would have made any difference to him), he waded into the pond, then, overcome with the cold, slipped and fell into the frigid water, lost consciousness, and slipped under the ice, below the surface of the freezing (30°) water.

Black Bear scrambled from the water and survived.

Despite frantic rescue efforts, it took 20 minutes to get Bennett out of the pond. He was rushed to UPMC Presbyterian Hospital in Pittsburgh, where he died shortly after 6 p.m., about 8 hours after he tried to rescue Black Bear. The Allegheny County Coroner's Office attributed his death to drowning and hypothermia—a too-rapid loss of heat, which causes shock to the heart.

Bennett's family told State Trooper **William Bittner** that he "was a big animal lover and very devoted to his dog." He was the kind of guy who would willingly risk his life if one of his dogs was in danger—no second thoughts.

Particularly distressing to Bennett's family was the way newspapers reported the tragedy. Bennett's parents are Deaf, as is his sister. They had to endure the humiliation of seeing him and themselves described as "deaf and dumb" and "deaf-mutes" in the local newspapers.

A Reuters report, "Deaf man drowns trying to save dog in icy pond," datelined Pittsburgh, January 19, and carried on NJ-L News, contained this sentence: "Police said a neighbor, Leonard Hartle, screamed out to Bennett, who was deaf and dumb, in a futile attempt to warn him the ice was too thin to bear his weight."

The **New Castle News** published a brief AP report (datelined Parker, January 19), which concluded with this sentence: "Bennett, who was deaf and dumb, was devoted to his dog, neighbors said."

The Herald (Pittsburgh) published a similar brief item (also datelined Parker, January 19), which included this sentence: "Bennett, who was deaf and mute, was devoted to his dog." Some improvement, huh?

Doreen Holden of the Community Counseling Center in Hermitage, Pennsylvania, faxed us on January 21 and said, "My office has received calls from some Deaf in the area because Mr. Bennett was referred to in the obituaries as 'deaf mute' and 'deaf and dumb.'" She added that Bennett's family felt "degraded since the papers felt it necessary to tell the world that they were 'deaf-mutes' also. . . . Our agency has been requested to write letters to the editors to address this issue." She asked permission to copy and distribute a **DEAF LIFE** article on terminology "to educate because when confronted with this the newspapers responded that these terms were found in the dictionary. Therefore, it was proper to use. But why mention it at all?"

Why? Because these terms still have "shock value." Even if it really isn't relevant to the story, if we're Deaf and use ASL exclusively, they're going to pick up on that, usually in a negative way. Did Bennett die because he was deaf? Unlikely. A hearing dog-lover in Bennett's situation would have undoubtedly ignored a shouted warning.

And just because a word is in the dictionary doesn't make it proper to use. After all, racial/ethnic epithets such as "nigger," "coon," "kike," "Hebe," "wop," "spic," and "dago," and non-ethnic slurs such as "retard" are included in many large up-to-date dictionaries. They are vulgar and obscene, and so are the terms "deaf and dumb" and "deaf-mute." They should be labeled as such, and treated as such. The simple word "deaf" is dignified, accurate, nonjudgmental, and suffices quite nicely for all purposes.

Ms. Holden also told us that she nearly had an accident when she first heard the news about the Deaf Mexicans who were rescued from the Queens trinket-selling ring last July. "I was driving in my car when that story broke and I heard it on my car radio. The reporter also used the term 'deaf-mutes,' referring to the Mexicans. I nearly drove off the road!"

Incidentally, Ms. Holden tried to contact members of Bennett's family, and to assist in our contacting them. We received no response to the phone message we left with John Bennett.

Patrick Hernan's detailed obituary of Bennett, published in the **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette** on January 20, is a much better piece of writing than those bald 5- or 6-paragraph reports, and presents a sympathetic and vivid portrait of Bennett, but still emphasizes the fact that he "could neither hear nor speak." (That is nothing unusual in *our* community!) He does note that the Deaf members of the family—Bennett's parents **Dona** and **John** and his sister **Kelly**—were hurt by the way the newspapers used the terms "deaf and dumb." But he apparently didn't interview them—he only talked to Bennett's hearing brother John. Of course, John might have been the only one willing to talk to him—the family spokesman. But could it be that Hernan was afraid that interviewing three persons who "cannot hear or speak" would be impossibly difficult?

Here is the complete obituary.

THOMAS BENNETT
A friend to animals who died saving dog

By Patrick Hernan
Thomas Bennett, the Butler County man who died

Sunday after trying to rescue his dog from an icy fishing pond, had a soft spot for animals that ultimately cost him his life, his brother said yesterday.

"Nobody's going to stop him when an animal is in trouble," said John J. Bennett, 39, of East Liberty. "They couldn't stop him even if it were going to take his own life, which it did."

Mr. Bennett, 42, could neither hear nor speak. He lived in a trailer in rural Hilliards with two dogs and a raccoon he nursed beck to health last summer after it had fallen from a tree and broken its leg.

Although Mr. Bennett released the raccoon back into the wild, his brother said, it soon returned to the trailer and found a home there.

"The guy was spectacular," Bennett said. "He couldn't leave a sick animal alone. It could have been a rattlesnake. This man was afraid of nothing."

Bennett said he has a sister who also is unable to hear or speak. The disabilities of his brother and sister were inherited from their parents, who also cannot hear or speak.

Mr. Bennett graduated from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, his brother said. Like all members of his immediate family, he used sign language to communicate.

Mr. Bennett particularly enjoyed hunting and fishing and taking care of his dogs, Kingo, a beagle whose name is short for "king of the forest," and Black Bear, a year-old Rottweiler who looks like a black bear, Bennett said.

So, when Black Bear broke his chain Sunday and fell through the ice, Mr. Bennett waded into the 30-degree water to try and save his beloved companion.

Breaking ice with his feet to reach the dog, which was struggling about 40 feet from the pond's edge, Mr. Bennett ultimately fell unconscious and drifted under the surface.

Frantic friends, neighbors and rescue workers tried to save him but he remained submerged for 20 minutes.

State police Trooper William Bittner used a small boat to reach Mr. Bennett and hoisted him from the water with a pole borrowed from the Eau Claire Fire Department.

Medics performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation and Mr. Bennett was flown to UPMC Presbyterian, where he died Sunday night.

Black Bear pulled himself from the water and survived.

Bennett said the family wanted to give Black Bear to a loving family of a police officer.

"We want to donate the dog as soon as possible either to a state trooper or a Pittsburgh police officer," he said. "It has to be a cop. Tommy would want it that way. He knows it would be safe. A cop won't mistreat a dog and will guide it the right way."

Bennett said police officers may contact him at 363-2765 to inquire about Black Bear.

He said the family was shocked at news of the death but were not surprised it came as a result of Mr. Bennett's fondness for animals.

"He loved Black Bear and Kingo and wouldn't let anything happen to either of them," Bennett said.

Family members were hurt by media accounts of his brother that referred to him as "deaf and dumb," Bennett said.

In addition to his brother, Mr. Bennett is survived by his parents, John S. and Dona Books Bennett of Lawrenceville; and a sister, Kelly J. Bennett of Lawrenceville.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. today at the Walter J. Zalewski Funeral Home, 216 44th St., Lawrenceville.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 p.m. tomorrow at Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Holy Family Church, Lawrenceville.

Burial will be in Allegheny Cemetery, Lawrenceville.

Patrick Hernan is a free-lance writer.

—Obituaries, **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**, Tuesday, January 20, 1998

THE BEAUTY OF SIGNS, THE CHARM OF MUSIC

Jenseits der Stille (***Beyond Silence***) is the moving story of a family that learns it isn't necessary to hear to understand one another. At the center of the tale is Lara (**Sylvie Testud**), a hearing child of deaf parents. Ever since she learned to talk, she has been, by necessity, their mouthpiece to the hearing community. Lara translates bank negotiations, telephone calls, even parent-teacher conferences for them—often using these occasions to comically apply her own little-girl savvy to getting her way.

Martin (**Howie Seago**) and Kai (**Emmanuelle Laborit**) rely on Lara in a way few parents ever rely on their children. Their bond is incredibly close, yet there remains a wall between them. They know that Lara's sound-filled world will forever be a mystery to them and they understand that their lives "in silence" will always be a mystery to Lara. One day, her aunt Clarissa (**Sibylle Canonica**), a vivacious woman and a talented musician, tempts her away into a life of sound her parents cannot fathom. Lara's journey, told with fresh humor and compassion, reveals the power of listening—whether or not one can hear sound—to the heart.

Beyond Silence, a Miramax Films Presentation, was directed by **Caroline Link** and written by Link and **Beth Serlin**. It features an international cast of hearing and deaf actors, also including **Tatjana Trieb** and **Hansa Czypionka**. Producers are **Thomas Wobke**, **Jakob Claussen**, and **Luggi Waldleitner**. Running time: 97 minutes. It was nominated in

the Best Foreign Language Film category at this year's Academy Awards, and is being released in New York and Los Angeles on June 5.

SNEAK PREVIEW: A benefit showing of ***Jenseits der Stille*** was held at the Cantor Film Center 36 East 8th Street, Manhattan, on Sunday, May 31. Proceeds benefit the Jacob Perlow Hospice Deaf Program. The film was shown with English subtitles, and Howie Seago was guest of honor.

The fundraiser included a brunch from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., the screening (3:00-4:30), and "Movie Q & A" (4:30-5:30).

For information on upcoming captioned big-screen events in New York: ❖jfinkle33@aol.com.

AND DON'T FORGET THE POPCORN!

At a May 6 press conference, Clearview Cinema Group, Inc. announced an important step in making first-run commercial films accessible to deaf and hard-of-hearing residents of northern New Jersey. Beginning with a premiere screening of the Oscar-winning ***As Good As It Gets*** on Monday, May 18, Clearview is introducing regularly scheduled monthly screenings of open-captioned films. (It currently operates 37 theaters with 169 screens.)

What are open-captioned films? Open-captioned films are identical to the prints viewed at regular theaters, with one exception: these prints have been enhanced with easy-to-read captions that include dialogue and describe the sonic environment. Understanding audible elements in addition to dialogue can be critical° to understanding and appreciating a film. The sound of a doorbell, barking dog, or creaking footsteps off-screen can play a significant role in a movie's plot. As sound effects take an increasingly prominent role in movie production, communicating the impact of the audio aspect of the moviegoing experience to deaf audience members becomes a great and important challenge.

Open-captions are not quite the same thing as English subtitles for foreign-language films. Subtitles merely translate the dialogue. Captions provide much more information.

critical: *(adjective)* here, vitally important.

An under-served population: The most recent information available from the National Center for Health indicates that New Jersey is home to more than 12,000 people who are profoundly deaf. People classified as "hard-of-hearing" comprise a much larger segment of the State's population, estimated at more than 700,000. On a national basis, United Way estimates that more than 28 million Americans are affected by hearing loss. This ranges from mild high-frequency hearing loss to more severe forms that approach total deafness. Advocates for the deaf and hard-of-hearing point out that some loss of hearing is part of the natural aging process and many people who have significant hearing loss are unaware of their condition. Further, many older persons who suffer hearing loss choose to ignore or deny their circumstances and the help that is available.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that assistive-listening devices (ALDs) be available to moviegoers. While ALDs are able to address the needs of a segment of the population with more mild hearing loss, they don't provide access for people with more severe hearing loss or those who are completely without hearing.

Clearview's interest in community: A. Dale Mayo, Clearview's President and Chief Executive Officer, said at the press conference, "Clearview Cinemas are focused on being active and supportive members of the community in which we operate as well as the community-at-large. In our effort to bring neighbors to the movies, the captioned-film program addresses a largely under-served segment of the population and is illustrative of our deep interest in meaningful outreach to our neighbors. While targeted primarily at the deaf and hard-of-hearing, we seek to provide for the inclusion of more elderly, English-as-second-language, and adult-literacy participants in the moviegoing experience.

"We are delighted to initiate the first regularly scheduled captioned films in the State and hope that this effort will enable entire families to share in the timely and wholesome experience of community-based movie entertainment. Admission to these films is open to anyone. It is not only for hard-of-hearing individuals."

To better accommodate deaf and hard-of-hearing moviegoers, Clearview has started training theater staff in the basics of sign language and has developed box-office procedures and concession menus that allow for easier communication. Clearview has also tapped into the communications networks of several advocacy groups.

An unusual source for movies: The open-captioned films that Clearview has begun showing are the product of a joint effort of major film studios and the TRIPOD School, a Burbank, California-based educational group that provides a total-communication program for deaf children and their hearing siblings. Since 1993, TRIPOD and its nonprofit distribution unit, TRIPOD Captioned Films, have received donated "prints" of first-run commercial films to enhance with the captions.

In a prepared statement, Nanci **Linke-Ellis**, TRIPOD'S Director of Exhibitor Relations, said: "We've made enormous strides in outreach since we captioned our first film, ***The Big Chill***. Last year, Tripod was able to place 25 movies in 75 major markets and in 1998, we expect to caption more than 50 films and extend outreach to more than 150 markets. This year, TRIPOD has already received studio commitments for ***Armageddon***, ***A Bug's Life***, ***City of Angels***, ***Lost in Space***, and ***Mulan***, among other titles."

For TRIPOD and the captioned-film-viewing public,

scarcity of film remains the major issue. Linke-Ellis pointed out that only three prints of ***As Good As It Gets*** have been captioned. Only five prints of the blockbusting ***Titanic*** are currently available in captioned form.

Where to see the films: The first opened-captioned screening was at Clearview's Bellevue Theatres (260 Bellevue Avenue in Montclair, Essex County). On May 20, the captioned version of ***As Good As It Gets*** moved to Clearview's Bergenfield 5 Cinema (58 South Washington Avenue in Bergenfield, Bergen County). Screenings began at 7:30 p.m.

Clearview also announced that it intends to feature additional captioned films at the Bellevue Theatre on the third Monday of every month. On the third Wednesday of every month, the same film will screen at Clearview's Bergenfield Cinema 5. Clearview hopes to roll out new locations and new titles throughout the year, availability permitting. ➤

SCRIPTS WANTED; APPLY HERE

The American Deaf Play Creators Festival II will be held from August 26 to October 4 at NTID's Department of Performing Arts. **Mary C. Vreeland** is producer. The second Festival, as was the first, is supported by a gift from the Nathan Cummings Foundation in New York City.

The Festival is a 5-week event providing Deaf playwrights, directors, crew, and performers an opportunity to develop and produce dramatic works while exploring innovative processes that support the creation of a play. The focus is on activities that initiate creative and constructive feedback to the artists engaging in this personal/professional exploration. "Process over product" is a central theme. Funding is provided to cover artists' fees and travel.

ASL dramatic poets are encouraged to submit video scripts of their stories as "Playsights." Playwrights can submit written scripts in English to be translated into ASL. Deadline for written or video submissions **and** for artist résumés (directors, actors, and designers) is **June 15**. Send all related materials to: Mary Vreeland, Producer, NTID Department of Performing Arts, 52 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623-5604. Please do *not* submit any scripts via E-mail or fax.

Two full-length plays, one for adults and one for young people, will be produced on the mainstage of the 500-seat Panara Theatre. The primary production concept for these plays will focus on story and the active sharing of it. There will be 4 to 6 performance.

In addition, two full-length or one-act plays will be workshopped during a one-week process that will focus the attention on development towards full production possibilities. Selection of these works is based on the sincere belief that these plays have future production potential.

Submission Restrictions:

- Plays with 6 or fewer characters will be accepted.
- Scenic elements will be multi-purpose components used in both productions. Unit costumes, with appropriate accessories, and lighting will be designed to be basic, with the goal of highlighting character development. (I.e., the simpler, the better!)
- Playsights/Playwrights must be in residence as active members of the production process to have their play selected.

For more information: ☎(716) 475-6249 (TTY); ☎(716) 475-6069 (TTY/Voice); ❒(716) 475-6787 (FAX); ❖mcvnpa@rit.edu (E-mail).

✏ The first Deaf Play Creators' Festival was held in September 1996. See "Under Construction: a first-ever Deaf-theater event makes history," **DEAF LIFE**, November and December 1996. The mainstage productions were **Raymond Luczak's** ***Whispers of a Savage Sort***, directed by **Howie Seago**, and **Shanny Mow's** ***The Cat-Spanking Machine***, directed by **Phyllis Frelich**. A particularly exciting (and enlightening) aspect of the Festival: the audience had the opportunity to ask questions and to discuss the plays openly with the cast, directors, and playwrights after the performances.

REACHING THE NEW FRONTIER: KIDS

The National Theatre of the Deaf is redesigning its traditional performance season next year so that the kids come first. It will dedicate its entire 1998-99 season to young people through its Little Theatre of the Deaf performances. NTD plans to reach a quarter of a million young people next season by touring three different LTD plays to schools, museums and theaters throughout the country.

Says NTD Artistic Director **Will Rhys**: "As we announce our new season, a great number of disturbing events are unfolding before and to our nation's youth. This reinforces the importance and timeliness of our decision to dedicate ourselves full-time this coming year to presenting positive dramas for this country's schoolchildren through our Little Theatre of the Deaf."

Three plays have been chosen for the tours: ***A World of Whys: Stories From Around The World That Ask The Question 'Why?'*** and Shakespeare Unmasked, original works by **Brian K. Jennings** and **Shanny Mow**; and ***The Christmas That Almost Wasn't***, an adaptation by Rhys of the Ogden Nash poem, with original music by **Ira Mitchell**.

The tour schedule, which coincides with the school calendar, already includes performances in the New England states, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota and Florida. New bookings are coming in daily for performances, residencies and other outreach activities for young people.

"We've been praised in the press as a 'National Treasure,'

but this nation's real treasure is our children," says Rhys. "Little Theatre of the Deaf shows enrich kids' minds with messages of inspiration, wisdom, and the importance of each individual. We've got to get out there on an even greater scale this year with these messages."

NTD is planning a nationwide program this year in which it will share its "National Treasure" title with 31 young people who deserve the title for distinguished service to their communities. 31 represents the number of years ago the NTD was founded.

NTD is the country's oldest, continually-producing touring theater. It set a global record last February in Antarctica when it became the world's first theater to reach all seven continents. "We may have run out of continents, but we still have plenty of frontiers," says Rhys. "We'll always have the frontier of a new generation of youth in front of us. And reaching these young people will always remain our proudest achievement."

GETTING THEIR ACT(S) TOGETHER

NTD is hosting the fourth annual National & Worldwide Deaf Theatre Conference from June 25 to 28.

This year's theme is *DEAF THEATRE: GATHER UP* (in ASL: *pick up and assemble*; *draw together to make more compact*). America's encouragement of artistic expression among diverse cultures within the American Deaf culture is the focus. The mission is to network and "gather up" Deaf actors, directors, and writers from all over the world; and to see what's new and what's yet to come in the world of Deaf Theater. Deaf Native American storytellers and Deaf Black American performance artists are featured. Conference highlights include solo performances by **Mary Beth Miller** and **Michelle Banks**. Well-known artists such as **Peter Cook**, **Phyllis Frelich**, **Bobbie Beth Scoggins**, and **Bernard Bragg** will lead workshops on such topics as *Storytelling*, *Creativity and American Sign Language*, *Expression of Black Arts in the Deaf Community*, and *Techniques on How to Market Yourself*. The entire Conference and the individual showcase performances are open to the public. It's funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Conference headquarters: Holiday Inn in Cromwell, Connecticut. Dinners and theater-showcase performance nights are at NTD's Meeting House in Chester.

The keynote speaker is **Melanie McKay-Cody**, a sign-language linguist and a Native American. Her topic is "Not All American Indians Wore Feathers." She is also giving a workshop in "Deaf Native American Storytelling."

McKay-Cody is a Deaf Native American who is part United Keetowah Band of Cherokee. A former teacher at the Oklahoma and New Mexico schools for the deaf, she is a researcher, lecturer and advocate for Deaf Native Americans and currently a doctoral student at the University of Arizona's Department of Language, Reading, and Culture. She is the only Deaf woman in the nation in her particular field of study. Her research involves the linguistics of Native American Sign Language and the problems facing Deaf Native American students. She received her early theatrical training at Gallaudet University.

Michelle Banks, Founder and Artistic Director of New York City's Onyx Theatre Company, Inc., America's first Deaf theater for people of color, was named 1997 Outstanding Young Woman of America. She is also leading a workshop at the Conference, and is presenting her solo performance, *The Reflections of a Black Deaf Woman*.

Fred Beam, Deaf Black American performance artist (professional actor, director and dancer), is also presenting a solo performance and workshop. He is the director of two Deaf dance companies and the President of the Washington D.C. Area Black Deaf Advocates.

Peter Cook, charismatic Deaf poet/performer, and Mary Beth Miller, Deaf comedienne, actress, and storyteller (and NTD founding member), are the other featured solo performers who will also lead workshops.

Another highlight of the Conference is the showcasing of three new sign-language productions at The Chester Meeting House. On Thursday evening, June 25, an all-new version of **Brian K. Jennings'** ***A World of Whys*** is being presented by Little Theatre of the Deaf. On Friday evening, ***Falling on Hearing Eyes: A Performance Gallery of Sign/Anguish***, is being co-presented by **Eric Beatty**. It's "a tragi-comic glance at the Deaf and hearing cultures."

Stephen Sachs' ***Sweet Nothing in My Ear*** (which debuted last year at Los Angeles' Fountain Theatre and recently had a successful run at Chicago's Victory Gardens Theatre) is being performed as a staged reading on Saturday night, June 27. ***Sweet Nothing*** focuses on a family's anguished conflict-of-cultures over the cochlear implant. **Sachs** is currently developing the script into a screenplay for Barwood Films, **Barbra Streisand's** production company.

For more information, contact **Susan Jackson**, Deaf Theatre Conference Director, The National Theatre of the Deaf, 5 West Main St., P.O. Box 659, Chester, CT 06412; ☎(860) 526-4975 (TTY); ☎(860) 526-4971 (Voice); ❒(860) 526-0066 (FAX); ❖DEAFTCON@aol .com (E-mail).

DREAM BIG!

Last October, **Anixa Santiago** of Carolina, Puerto Rico, won the title of Miss Model Puerto Rico. She is a beautiful, slender, dark-eyed, 5-foot, 6-inch Deaf woman with a strong desire for succeeding in life.

Santiago is a graduate of the St. Gabriel School for the Deaf in Puerto Nuevo, where she has many loving friends who gave her support and encouragement in her ambition to become a model. She is currently studying electrical engineering in the Universidad Politécnica (Polytechnic University) in Hato Rey with a minor in Computer Science. She is also a

A dazzling Anixa Santiago wearing her crown and gown.

member of Puerto Rico's Theater for the Deaf, and has acted in pantomimes and comedies.

She and her boyfriend **Frank Nieves**, also Deaf, have become advocates for the Puerto Rican Deaf community, calling attention of the general public to their major needs. Their concerns are the same as those shared by Deaf people in the United States and Canada. They want better education for Deaf children in the government schools, less discrimination against Deaf jobseekers, and better interpreting services.

Santiago believes that there is no limit to your dreams. If you really want to make them come true, you can! She will soon go to Madrid, Spain, to participate in a beauty contest and will complete her Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. She's considering entering the Miss Universe competition, too. For her, the sky is the limit.

✏ This is adapted from a report by Brother **Reinaldo Saliva González** (Brother Rey), Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico. He has contributed several articles to **DEAF LIFE**, including, "My Deaf buddy, who has AIDS"/"Un amigo sordo, contrajo SIDA." Here's a slightly shorter version in the original Spanish:

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Por primera vez, la comunidad Sorda puertorriqueña se ve dignamente representada en un concurso de belleza, por la joven Sorda de 19 años, Anixa Santiago. El pasado mes de octubre Anixa, ex alumna del Colegio San Gabriel para Sordos en Puerto Nuevo, ganó el concurso Miss Modelo de Puerto Rico 1997 ante otras 19 jóvenes oyentes. Anixa, pertenece al grupo de teatro de Sordos de Puerto Rico, y estudia ingenieria eléctrica, con una concentración en ciencias de la computadora, en la Universidad Politécnica en Hato Rey, Puerto Rico.

Luego de ganado el concurso Anixa recibió varies ofertas pare concursar en competencias de modelaje tales como Miss America Model en New York, Señorita Modelo Internacional en Madrid, España, y para participar en el concurso Miss Universe Puerto Rico.

En Anixa se encarna el adagio popular que dice que no hay mujeres tan bellas como las mujeres puertorriqueñas .

¡Mucho exito, Anixa!

—Br. Rey Saliva González

MAKING A DAY OF IT

On Saturday, May 9, thousands of children with disabilities were dancin' in the streets, enjoying the musical beat of the "Rock Around the Block" parade at the 1998 Sesame Place Challenge for Variety Club. Sesame Place, the nation's only theme park based on ***Sesame Street***, opened its gate to the Philadelphia Chapter of Variety Club at 10 a.m. The festivities continued until 4 p.m.

Celebrating its eleventh year, the Sesame Place Challenge is a one-of-a-kind event that brings together children with disabilities and their families for a full day of fun. It's the largest single day event of its kind in the United States. Over the past decade, the Sesame Place Challenge has hosted more than 90,000 guests—with no admission charge.

This was the first year that Variety Club members saw the interactive "Rock Around the Block" musical parade. It began at the front-gate plaza at 1:30 p.m. Winding its way down Sesame Neighborhood, it got everyone dancing to rock 'n' roll, Latin and jazz songs, and well-known ***Sesame Street*** tunes. Fabulous musical floats rode by the crowds, while colorful, larger-than-life inflatables of ***Sesame Street*** pals flying high above the fans. Guests twisted with Big Bird and rocked with Elmo and Zoe as bubbles burst from the Count's pipe organ and Bert and Ernie sounded jazz notes in their best cool style.

This year, Sesame Place also featured Variety Club members who have been influenced by music, dance, and the entertainment industry. At a special ceremony in Big Bird Theater before noon, the Variety Club dance troupe, in cooperation with the Philadelphia Civic Ballet Company, performed a dance number entitled "On Eagle's Wings." It featured **Elizabeth Knecht**, the lead dancer for the Philadelphia Civic Ballet Company, and **Erica Barker**, a 23-year old woman who has been dancing in her motorized wheelchair for the past eight years. Along with her eleven siblings, Erica has been a member of Variety Club all her life and sees herself as an inspiration for younger Variety Club members.

Also on hand for the ceremony was **Gabrielle Petroff**, a 12-year old Deaf actress who has performed on ***Sesame Street*** for the past three seasons as "Nicole." She attended the past 10 Sesame Place Challenges, looked forward to her eleventh (and her last), performing her ***Sesame Street*** poem about her ears. She, too, inspired the Variety Club children.

New at this year's event: street performances throughout the day by Peter Cook, whose work incorporates ASL, pantomime, storytelling, acting, and movement. The 4H Seeing Eye Puppy Club of Mercer County also offered demonstrations throughout the day, giving youngsters a chance to pet the puppies and introducing parents to the wonderful assets of these specially trained dogs.

Working with numerous health organizations, Sesame Place

and the Philadelphia Chapter of the Variety Club designed this program 11 years ago to help youngsters build pride and self-esteem, and to have a day when they are in the majority, not the minority.

"The Sesame Place Challenge has been one of the most rewarding programs we offer," said **Ed McBride**, President of the Philadelphia Chapter of Variety Club. "We get such joy from watching the beautiful smiles on the children's faces as they participate in the many activities at Sesame Place. And the musical parade, "Rock Around the Block" and the performances by some of our talented Variety Club members, are wonderful additions to our already special day."

"This event is a very heartwarming experience for all the staff at Sesame Place," said **Robert Caruso**, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Sesame Place. "It's hard to believe it's been repeated for over a decade. We are delighted that we have been able to reach thousands of children in this very special way."

Background: Variety Club, a volunteer organization, raises funds for programs and services that address the physical, social, medical, educational and recreational needs of children with disabilities. Sesame Place provides free admission, staffing, and all the entertainment for the Sesame Place Challenge as a benefit to support the children of Variety Club. K-Mart provided special gifts for the children and tee-shirts. Registration was arranged only through the Philadelphia Chapter of the Variety Club at ☎(215) 735-0803.

Sesame Place is located 30 minutes from Philadelphia and 90 minutes from Manhattan. Its innovative combination of play and entertainment captures the spirit and essence of ***Sesame Street***, and was designed for families with children ages 2 through 13. The park features live stage shows and a parade, 15 exhilarating water adventures such as family favorite Slimey's Chutes and the ever-popular Sky Splash, and 50 stimulating play elements like Nets 'n' Climbs, a 3-story challenge of crawling and climbing. It remains open through October 25, with operating days varying throughout the season. For general park information, call ☎(215) 752-7070 (Voice).

"BEING PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER": OUTSTANDING CAMP PROGRAMS HONORED

The American Camping Association awarded its highest national award to three summer-camp programs for their service and dedication to helping the less fortunate in their communities. The 1997 Eleanor P. Eells Award for Program Excellence was awarded to the Camp Getaway program based in Chicago, Kesher Family Camp program in Pennsylvania, and Camp PHEnominal in Dallas.

The Eells Award is presented annually to honor a woman whose life was a model and inspiration to all camp professionals. Says **Suz Welch**, Vice President of the American Camping Association: "She **[Eleanor P. Eells]** was a firm believer that camping is a medium which all different kinds of people can gain and enjoy benefits. She encouraged diversity, creative programming, and reaching people who otherwise may not get the experience."

Camp Getaway, supported through the AIDS Pastoral Care Network in Chicago, received the award for its program that uses the camp experience to improve the lives of low-income families who are affected by the HIV infection or AIDS diagnosis. This is the first vacation for many of the families. "The biggest reward for us has been to see families who haven't had opportunity to get away and do something fun together," says **Carol Reese**, Executive Director of Aids Pastoral Care Network, who runs Camp Getaway. "They experience the restoration of being outdoors. It really strengthens families internally and as a whole because they can talk with other parents and families at the camp, and the kids get to be kids."

Kesher Family Camp in the Poconos received the Eells award for providing a Jewish camping experience to families with deaf or hard-of-hearing parents and children. Jewish deaf families often are unable to get the needed support as they raise their children and participate in the community. The program runs parallel to the regular camp program and mixes the two Jewish groups into one community. **Cheryl Magen**, Director of Camp Ramah in the Poconos, says, "There are two things that I have most benefitted from this experience. One is the response of the deaf families and how pleased they were to be part of something bigger than themselves. The second is the impact and interaction between deaf families and campers."

The third camp program to receive the award was Camp PHEnominal in Dallas, for its program involving families with *phenylalanine hydroxylase* in the camp experience. *Phenylketonuria* (PKU) is a rare, inherited, metabolic disease that results in mental retardation and other neurological problems when treatment is not started within the first few weeks of life and maintained throughout life. During the camp experience, families can share ideas for diet management. The experience, which takes place at Camp John Marc in Dallas, allows the campers to realize that they are not alone in battling PKU.

Background: The American Camping Association is a national, nonprofit organization of camp professionals and is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and adults through the camp experience. ACA is the only organization that accredits all types of camps across the United States to ensure that they are meeting or exceeding national standards for health, safety, and program quality. Address: 5000 State Road 67 North, Martinsville, IN 46151-7902; ☎(765) 342-8456 (Voice); ❒(765) 342-2065 (FAX); ❖aca@aca-camps.org (E-mail); ✱www.aca-camps.org (Web).

HOH & L-D: STAYING ON THE JOB

The California School of Professional Psychology-San Diego (CSPPSD) received a $2.5 million, 5-year renewal grant from the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to expand activities at its federally-funded Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC), which focuses on research and services for persons who are hard-of-hearing or late-deafened. The renewal grant, which provides funding through September 30, 2002, stipulates a focus on addressing personal adjustment issues and the maintenance of employment status for people who develop hearing difficulties later in life.

The new funding, awarded in September 1997 by the DOE's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, supports a program that broadens the RRTC's mandate from its former primary focus on mental-health issues to an emphasis on employment issues. Some of the funds will be used to involve businesses, corporations, and trade, professional, and consumer organizations in collecting research data and providing information and services that can help hard-of-hearing and late-deafened employees adjust to new circumstances and remain in their jobs.

"More than 22 million people struggle with being hard-of-hearing, and an additional 1.5 million people experience late-onset deafness, according to the National Center for Health Statistics," said **Brenda Battat**, Deputy Executive Director of SHHH, a major subcontractor on the grant. "Because it plans to work with and through employers, human-resource organizations, counseling organizations, and consumer organizations like ours, the RRTC will make a real-life difference to the very large numbers of persons who are hard-of-hearing."

Directing the project is **Raymond Trybus**, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology and Chancellor of CSPP's San Diego campus. Research and services-development activities will be conducted by a combination of staff from the RRTC at CSPP-San Diego, and key partners at other institutions and organizations across the country. In addition to SHHH, the Association of Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) and the SayWhatClub will assist with data collection and information dissemination.°

Several studies that will contribute data about ethnically-diverse populations were incorporated into the study. Howard University Hospital, which serves a predominately African-American and Hispanic/Central American population in Washington, D.C. will study those who come in for hearing-related services, and the Veteran's Administration in Portland, Oregon will contribute data collected from its sizable hearing-rehabilitation center for veterans. A similar project will invite the participation of American Indian people with the collaboration of the San Diego American Indian Health Center and the Native American Research and Training Center based in Tucson, Arizona.

A national advisory board comprised of key leaders in business, government and research will support and advise on the progress of the RRTC. Among those who have agreed to join the Board is **Robert Ross,** MD, Director of the Department of Health Services for the County of San Diego, who calls the RRTC's approach "exactly right for this era. Government alone cannot be expected to address all social and public-health problems. It takes the entire community, through its businesses, corporations, trade and professional associations, and the like, to make life better for our citizens, including those with hearing losses."

Attorney **Jerry Monroe** also serves on the RRTC national-advisory board. As a former Board of Director for the Greater San Diego Chamber of Commerce, chairman of its Health Care Committee, and hard-of-hearing himself, he applauds the goals of the RRTC. "A hearing loss is a pervasive but little-recognized health problem in our society," he said. "This program will make new and important inroads in both understanding and methods for coping with it."

Other organizations participating in aspects of the funded work include the San Diego Unified School District, California School for the Deaf at Riverside, California State University at Northridge, and Gallaudet University.

"The San Diego Chamber of Commerce has given us a very strong expression of support, and has agreed to collaborate by bringing in some of the larger local organizations," said Trybus. "This phase of the grant will emphasize training. We're going to make sure that counselors, human-resource professionals, physicians, mental-health providers, and other service providers understand how to assist this special population."

dissemination: distribution; spreading.

ONWARD, WITH BATTERIES AT FULL CHARGE!

The 1998 Oticon Focus on People Awards were presented on April 2 in Los Angeles. Oticon, Inc., the world's oldest manufacturer of hearing aids (founded in 1904), sponsored the national awards competition, which celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of four honorees, including three hard-of-hearing people who prove (as the Oticon release put it) "that hearing loss does not limit the ability to live a full, productive and even, inspiring life"—just in case anyone needed convincing!

At the gala awards ceremony at Los Angeles' Biltmore Hotel, legendary stage and screen actress **Nanette Fabray**, who has also coped with hearing loss, presented awards in four categories: senior (over 65 years of age), to **Marcia Dugan** of Penn Yan, New York; adult (under 65 years), to **Bea Lyons** of Chattanooga, Tennessee; youth (age 18 and under), to **Brittany Sinclair** of Bloomingdale, New Jersey; and professional, to **John K. Duffy**, Ph.D., of Port Washington, New York. Each of the honorees received a $2,500 award

Winners of the 1998 Oticon Focus on People Awards. Left to right: Marcia Dugan, Brittany Sinclair, Bea Lyons, and Dr. John Duffy, holding their crystal awards, Nanette Fabray, and Soren Holst.

and $2,500 donation to the nonprofit cause of their choice.

The Oticon Focus on People Awards are designed to focus attention on common misconceptions about hearing loss, correct negative stereotypes, and motivate people with hearing loss to take advantage of the help that is available to them. "As someone who has dealt with hearing loss, and who also struggled with the misconceptions that accompany hearing impairment, I can truly appreciate the courage and commitment of the award winners," said Fabray. "Each of them has achieved in their lives and then gone one step further, to reach out to others with hearing loss and help them to improve and enrich their lives."

Research shows that people are often reluctant to seek help for their hearing loss. Negative perceptions of hearing loss as an indication of "decline" prevent many from seeking help. Still others assume hearing loss is an inevitable condition of growing older and resist taking advantage of new technologies that can help them.

"Today, even with the significant advances in hearing aid technology, outdated stereotypes of what it means to have a hearing loss persist," said Oticon President **Soren Holst**. "Because of these misconceptions, 80% of people who would benefit from advances in hearing instruments hesitate to seek help. The reality is that, with the proper hearing amplification, individuals with hearing loss can lead active, fulfilling personal and professional lives. Our hope is that through this unique, first-of-its-kind awards program we can begin to create broader awareness and understanding of hearing loss and those whose lives it touches."

Over 200 persons were nominated for the Oticon Focus on People Awards. The three winners were selected by independent judging committees composed of leaders in hearing-health practice, education, research, and advocacy. Holst pointed out that each of the honorees serve as positive role models that help people better appreciate the advances in hearing care and what these advances can mean in terms of continued productivity and enjoyment of life.

For Marcia Dugan, authoring an upbeat, practical guidebook for those coming to terms with hearing loss (**Keys to Living With Hearing Loss**) has been her way of making a difference. Formerly Director of Public Affairs at NTID, she is now president of Self Help for Hard of Hearing People's National Board of Trustees. She is a dedicated advocate, encouraging libraries, houses of worship, hospitals, courthouses, and other "public spaces" to become accessible to hard-of-hearing persons. Her time and talents have served the Council for Better Hearing and Speech Month, the Alexander Graham Bell Association, and the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People. She selected SHHH as the recipient of Oticon's $2,500 donation.

Brittany Sinclair, a 15-year-old honor student who will be entering high school in the Fall, and has been a source of support and inspiration to hearing and hard-of-hearing classmates. An accomplished musician, she won the 1997 award for outstanding art student and is an active member of her school's theater group. She volunteers as an aide to a local Brownie troop and enjoys helping youngsters understand and appreciate the challenges of living with a hearing loss. Most recently, she initiated a project with the local Lions Club to raise funds to obtain and install flashing fire alarms for homes with deaf or hard-of-hearing children. She chose this project as the beneficiary of Oticon's $2,500 donation.

Lyons, a committed educator and zealous° advocate, is devoted to bettering the world for students with mild to profound hearing loss. She originated the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at Chattanooga State Technical Community College, which will receive Oticon's $2,500 donation. She serves as a volunteer interpreter for a number of community organizations, counsels hard-of-hearing high-school students, and advises staff and teachers of preschool-aged deaf/HH children.

To recognize the critical role of hearing-care professionals in improving the world of those with hearing loss, the Oticon Focus on People Award was presented to Dr. John Duffy, educator and clinician. Through over 50 years of dedication to the field of audiology, Dr. Duffy is credited with several historic contributions and is recognized as a pioneer of the multisensory learning-to-speak method that teaches deaf children to speak, read, and write. He is Professor Emeritus of Audiology/Speech Pathology at Brooklyn College CUNY, and served as director of the Speech and Hearing Centers at both Lenox Hill Hospital in New York City and Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. He recently co-founded The Speech for the Deaf Foundation, dedicated to advocating and facilitating the multisensory learn-to-speak method, which will receive Oticon's $2,500 donation.

zealous: enthusiastic; eager; spirited; fervent.

BHI MARKS FIRST QUARTER-CENTURY

The Better Hearing Institute (BHI), the leading North American provider of free information about hearing loss, hearing-care providers, hearing aids, and tinnitus, celebrated its 25th anniversary in April.

With generous backing from supporters in the hearing field, BHI has championed hearing health as an important healthcare issue and has offered hope and guidance to the estimated 28 million who have hearing loss. Its educational resources and television and print PSAs have spread the message that hearing help is available for almost everyone. "Today's climate is so much more positive for people with hearing loss than it was in 1973," said BHI President **Dale Thorstad**. "Now almost everyone can be helped by the latest technology and new medical and surgical procedures."

BHI was established 25 years ago to challenge prejudices associated with hearing loss and the use of hearing aids. **Joseph** ("**Joe**") **Rizzo**, Chairman Emeritus of BHI, was the founding Executive Director and an architect of BHI's public-awareness campaign.

During the past 25 years, Hollywood celebrities, sports personalities, political leaders, and other prominent BHI spokespeople have come forward to publicize their hearing loss and the choices they have made to improve it. BHI has collaborated with many famous personalities, including **Kathy Buckley**, **Rosalynn Carter**, **Bill Cosby**, **Norm Crosby**, **Nanette Fabray**, **Florence Hendersen**, **Bob Hope**, Dr. **C. Everett Koop**, and **Ronald Reagan**. Actors **Leslie Nielsen** and **Richard Thomas** are BHI spokespersons as International Chairman and National Chairman.

To keep hearing-health issues in the vanguard and encourage people with hearing loss to seek help, BHI has produced educational materials as well as television and print public-service messages. It is also a frequent resource on hearing issues for the media and has recently worked with MSNBC, **Modern Maturity**, **Consumer Digest**, and **Men's Health**, to name just a few media contacts.

New PSAs with Nielsen have been airing. A record number of calls to HelpLine, including requests for the hearing-aid booklet featured in the Nielsen PSAs, have been received through the second quarter of 1998.

BHI is now handling a record-breaking number of requests for information. In 1997, BHI responded to 50,000 requests through its Hearing HelpLine (☎800-EAR WELL) and Hearing Help-On-Line Internet site (✱www.betterhearing.org), and this number will be surpassed in 1998. (BHI resources are also available in quantity by calling ☎888-HEAR-HELP.)

Several major initiatives have been launched, including the Family Physician Program, which focuses on the importance of hearing screenings during regular physical examinations. Two new booklets introduced last year—*Help Through Hearing Aids* and *A Physician's Guide for Identifying Hearing Loss*—are now available as free single copies or for purchase in quantity. Capitalizing on the power of the Internet, BHI's award-winning Website offers visitors information about both hearing-health resources and providers now listed in BHI's Hearing Care Provider Directory, introduced last February. It lists approximately 20,000 audiologists, hearing-aid specialists, and otolaryngologists.

As it enters its second quarter century, the Better Hearing Institute will continue to share with the public the important message that living well means hearing well—at least for those who are hard-of-hearing!

Record-busters: For the second consecutive year, the Better Hearing Institute's Hearing HelpLine and Hearing Help-on-Line are receiving requests in record-breaking numbers for information about hearing help and hearing care providers.

Michele D. Hartlove, Acting Executive Director of BHI, projects that approximately 60,000 calls and 40,000 Internet visits will be directed to BHI this year. In 1997, the Hearing HelpLine received 38,000 calls, and there were 10,000 visits to the Website.

FIGHTING THE "FEAR FACTOR"

The Helen Keller National Center's 1998 Awareness Campaign focuses on the achievement and independence of people who are deaf-blind, living, working, and actively engaged in their communities as volunteers, advocates, and mentors.

This year's campaign features **Richard McGann,** age 44, homeowner and husband, employed for 26 years as an instructional aide, then supply manager, now braillist and teacher, president and co-founder of the first Lions Club chartered by deaf-blind persons, ardent Pittsburgh Steelers fan, active board member in his church, Pittsburgh's Planning Council and Task Force on disabilities, former Vice President of the American Association of Deaf-Blind, and much more. His "non-stop energy, optimistic personality, and great sense of humor" earned him the outstanding citizen of the year award five years ago from the **Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**, among other accolades.°

Like McGann, over 50% of the deaf-blind population has Usher's syndrome, a genetic disorder characterized by hearing loss that is present at birth or shortly thereafter, and a progressive loss of vision due to *retinitis pigmentosa* (RP), an abnormal buildup of pigment inside the eye. This past year, extensive research has identified specific gene mutations that may cause RP, so gene therapy holds tremendous potential for future treatment of Usher's and other retinal degenerative diseases.

Undoubtedly, the increase in education, vocational training, and employment opportunities over the past decade have enabled people with severe disabilities, like deaf-blindness, to acquire the skills needed for independence and involvement in their communities. But according to **Tony Coelho**, Chairman of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (PCEPD), who introduced the landmark ADA legislation in 1990 as a Congressman from California: "We still need considerable effort to change employer attitude. Most employers need greater exposure to workers with disabilities before the 'fear factor' is eliminated. Certain technological adaptations have significantly leveled the

playing field in the employment area by offering more adaptations and decreasing the emphasis on physical tasks.

On the positive side, PCEPD reports that 70% of the accommodations made by employers they had consulted with cost no more than $500, and 21% were made at no cost—such as moving a deaf-blind worker's desk away from bright light streaming through a window. On average, for every dollar spent on a job accommodation, the company gained $32.80 on benefits, including increased productivity and savings on such expenses as worker's compensation and training of new employees.

Another incentive for employers is a federal "work opportunity tax credit" to businesses that employ people with disabilities: 35% of the first $6,000 in wages per worker (or $3,000 for qualified summer youth workers), provided the employee works for 180 days or 400 hours and is certified as having a disability; 25% for less than 400 hours, but at least 120 hours; and 40% for 400 hours or more.

Today, deaf-blind people work at a host of jobs around the country from computer programmer to assembly worker, chef, administrator, attorney, laundry worker, and more. Though we need to improve employment opportunities and focus on getting people started in the job market, we must also focus on the youth of today. Several years ago, Richard McGann was part of a national symposium on Education for Students who are Deaf-Blind, and he adds that one of his goals is to encourage more young people to move into leadership positions. He even hopes to establish a junior AADB in the future. Nationwide replication of the Pittsburgh Lions Club, with an inclusive membership of deaf, deaf-blind, and sighted-hearing members is another goal, along with establishing much-needed housing and support services for this population. Perhaps his biggest challenge is trying to educate the public about the needs and abilities of people with dual sensory loss.

Background: Originally proclaimed by Congressional resolutions and Presidential signature 14 years ago, Awareness activities and events featuring information about significant vision *and* hearing loss, or deaf-blindness, now occur throughout the year, beginning in June, **Helen Keller's** birth month. (Her birthday was June 27, 1880.)

All citizens, health organizations, civic groups, libraries, schools, and agencies are encouraged to plan state and local activities during the month of June, and especially during the week of June 21-27. A free sample proclamation, radio public-service script, list of activities, 1998 poster, ad slicks, and release are available from the Public Relations Department, Helen Keller National Center, 111 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point, NY 11050, or by calling **Barbara Hausman**, ☎(516) 944-8637 (TTY), ☎(516) 944-8900, ext. 325 (Voice), or ❐(516) 944-7302 (FAX).

accolades: (*noun, plural*) praises; acclaim.

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

The second edition of **Foundations of Orientation and Mobility**, the single most comprehensive source for orientation and mobility (O&M) theory and applied research, is on the market, published by AFB Press. Newly updated with expanded coverage and new research from the diverse field of O&M, **Foundations of Orientation and Mobility** is an indispensable resource for students, teachers and practitioners.

"When this book was originally published in 1980, it quickly became an essential text," said **Barry Katzen**, president of AFB Press. "The second edition has a much broader scope, covering a range of topics from low vision, aging, and multiple disabilities to accessibility, program design, and adaptive technology."

The new edition of **Foundations of Orientation and Mobility** brings together more than 30 of the world's leading O&M professionals. It expands the scope of the original book with special analysis of the significance of human systems to the principles and techniques of O&M, independent travel for persons who are blind or have low or impaired vision, the progression of the profession from a historical perspective, modification of O&M instruction for a variety of learners, and an examination of current international practice. Each chapter is accompanied by all-new suggestions for O&M specialists as well as activities for students, instructors and professionals. The appendix includes important guidelines and requirements for anyone about to embark on or in the midst of a career in O&M.

Background: AFB Press, headquartered in New York City, the publishing arm of the American Foundation for the Blind, has the largest catalog of titles on the non-medical aspects of blindness and provides more texts for college courses and university programs than any publisher in the field. The American Foundation for the Blind—the organization to which Helen Keller devoted over 40 years of her life—is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to enable people who are blind or have impaired vision to achieve equality of access and opportunity that will ensure freedom of choice in their lives.

DIVERSE NEEDS, COMMON CONCERNS

More than 500 disability-rights advocates nationwide participated in a series of workshops and plenaries on disability-rights advocacy from May 27 to 30 in Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, May 27, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.—In-depth Institutes on Medicaid and Social Security.

7:30-9:00 p.m.—"Keeping the Vision Alive." The P&A System saluted visionaries in the field of disability-rights. These included **Justin Dart** of Justice For All, **Elizabeth Boggs**, **Ed Roberts**, and **Howie the Harp**. Speakers included Justin Dart, **Judith Heumann**, Assistant Secretary for Special Education & Rehabilitation Services, U.S. Department of

Education; **John Lancaster**, Executive Director, President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities; **Hikmah Gardiner**, Do Drop In, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and **Ethan Ellis**, Executive Director, New Jersey DD Council.

Thursday, May 28, 9:00-11:00 a.m.—"Disability-rights legislation and their Impact on People with Disabilities." P&A clients discussed how disability-rights legislation has improved their lives. Experts discussed the role and history of this legislation. Speakers included Secretary **Andrew Cuomo**, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (on the Fair Housing Act); Assistant Attorney General **William Lee**, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (on the ADA); and **Robert Silverstein**, Director, Center for Disability Policy, George Washington University (on IDEA).

Friday, May 29, 1998, 8:30 a.m. -11:45 a.m.—Special Education Institute.

11:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m.—Transportation Institute.

Saturday, May 30, 1998, 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.—Physician Assisted Suicide Institute.

12:45 p.m.-2:15 p.m.—Nationally acclaimed comedian **Brett Leake** provided humorous insight into life and disability.

There were also more than 99 sessions exploring disability rights. For more information on NAPAS/ATTAC or upcoming activities, contact **Beth Weintraub Falk** at the address/numbers below or visit the Website.

National Association of Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
900 Second Street, NE, Suite 211
Washington, D.C. 20002-3557
☎(202) 408-9521 (TTY)
☎(202) 408-9514 (Voice)
❒(202) 408-9520 (FAX)
❖napas@vipmail.earthlink.net
✷http://www.protectionandadvocacy.com

Background: NAPAS is the voluntary membership association of the federally-mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Systems. P&As provide legally-based advocacy services for people with disabilities in every state and territory.

BITS & PIECES

☞ **Caught—but will he be brought to justice?** A top administrator at Donaldson's College, one of the two main schools for the deaf in Edinburgh, Scotland, has been suspended after physically and emotionally abusing deaf children. (In Scotland, a "college" is a K-12 program, not a postsecondary one. Donaldson's College has students from preschool up.) We have no further details.

☞ **On strike!** We received a flyer announcing that D.C. 1707, Local 215, was going on strike Wednesday, May 13, through Thursday, May 14. The reason? "A year and 6 months without a contract!" The flyer continued:

> As surprising as it may be, negotiations between New York Society for the Deaf (NYSD) administration and union members have continued for over a year. However, union members have not allowed this to interfere with our work. NYSD, a comprehensive, multi-service agency, continues to run with care, respect, and provides quality services to a unique population—the DEAF/HARD OF HEARING population. This is only possible due to a qualified, dedicated, and hard working staff; the majority of whom are union members. In return, the administration has repeatedly denied our demands. This shows us their lack of respect and appreciation for the work that we do. In a field that is notorious for already low wages, this administration wants to pay even less.
>
> **We will no longer stand for this!!**
>
> Our basic demands are:
> 1. Fair and reasonable wages.
> 2. Affordable health benefits.
> 3. Equal benefits for ALL NYSD staff.

We will following up on this.

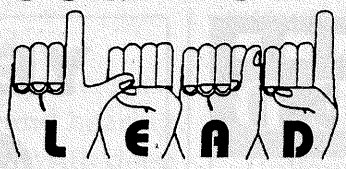
☞ **What's the sign for "Fair Lady Works at Shuttles"?** A Tai Chi Festival is held annually on the first full weekend in June at the Tai Chi Farm on Route 94 in Warwick, New York. This year's festival was held on June 5, 6, and 7. Says **Lynn Teale**: "The Tai Chi Festival has been traditionally a hearing event. I am a hearing Tai Chi instructor who happens to sign. I have been trying, over the past 2 years, to open the Tai Chi experience to the Deaf & HOH communities. This year is the first in which I have succeeded in attracting any attention.

"This year **Greg Mucci**, a deaf Tai Chi instructor from Illinois, [attended] and [offered] workshops and lectures in sign. There [were] also ASL interpreters available and, I am pleased to announce, Gallaudet [sent] a representative to begin work on an exciting project that will develop Gallaudet standard ASL signs for Tai Chi words and terms. This will enable interested instructors to teach Tai Chi to the deaf and HOH. University studies have proven Tai Chi to be beneficial for reducing stress and improving health, balance and longevity. Tai Chi can be practiced by anyone, any age, any health condition.

For information on upcoming events, contact Lynn Teale at TTY ☎(908) 813-2401 (TTY), ❒(908) 852-8984 (FAX), or ❖lynn.teale@softcentre.com (E-mail).

☞ **Congratulations!** The Ernest C. Drury School for the Deaf in Milton, Ontario, now has its own Webpage: ✷http://ecdrury.edu.gov.on.ca. Dr. **Clifton F. Carbin** is Webmaster.

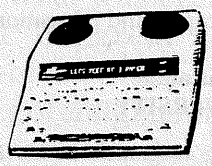
We Need Your Help!

Midwest  **Institute**

Leadership through Education & Advocacy for the Deaf

The Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute (Leadership through Education and Advocacy for the Deaf) is a non-profit corporation located in Columbia, Missouri. The goal of Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute is to provide services to deaf, hard of hearing and late deafened adults where there are service gaps or services being offered that are not culturally and linguistically appropriate.

My name is Stephanie Logan and I am the Executive Director of the Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute. I became deaf six years ago to spinal meningitis. I never would have imagined I would be developing programs and services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. However, I was overwhelmed by the lack of services available when I became deaf and realized how fortunate I was as a hearing person and the opportunities I took for granted. The following are three major programs that I want to expand at the Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute but ***I need your help.***



National Crisis Line for the Deaf:

We are currently working to expand Deafline Missouri to become the National Crisis Line for the Deaf. Deafline Missouri is a 24-hour crisis hotline. It provides free and confidential help through the TTY for the deaf and hard of hearing community throughout Missouri. Deafline Missouri is also for any shelter, agency, or individual who needs help or information when working with deaf or hard of hearing individuals. Parents, families, and friends of deaf and hard of hearing persons can also call Deafline Missouri to receive support and referrals. In order to provide the nation's first crisis line to serve and support deaf and hard of hearing people in crisis, Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute needs $25,000 to cover the cost of phone bills for 1998-1999.

The Deaf House:

There are approximately 2.8 million deaf and hard of hearing women and children who are victims of domestic violence each year but just getting through the front door of a shelter can be impossible (many have a doorbell with a speaker). Once inside a shelter, many times an interpreter is needed to facilitate the communication process. This can be extremely expensive if services are ongoing for a shelter whose budget is already limited. Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute already provides statewide services to a few of these women and children. $320,000 is needed to purchase the house and employ the staff needed to give these women and children a chance to be safe in an environment where they are comfortable and communication is a priority. Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute currently works with approximately 100 deaf and hard of hearing women each year who are victims of domestic violence.

Bicultural-Bilingual Learning Academy:

This facility will be designed to provide a culturally and linguistically appropriate, educational preschool environment for both deaf and hard of hearing children as well as hearing children of deaf parents. This innovative, groundbreaking school will cost approximately $375,000.

This is not a gimmick! If you have any questions at all, please feel free to call, write, or email me anytime. I would be happy to personally answer any questions you might have or send you information on our organization.

Stephanie Logan; 409 Vandiver Drive, Building 4, Suite 100; Columbia, Missouri 65202
(573) 817-2400 slogan@services.computerland.net

Yes, I want to help the Midwest L.E.A.D. Institute accomplish your goals. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of: ___ $10,000 ___ $5,000 ___ $1,000 ___ $500 ___ $100 ___ other

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CLASSIFIED

Mill Neck Services Job Development Program

Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing? Are you looking for work? Mill Neck Service's Job Development Program can help you obtain employment. Please contact our agency at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

Sign Language Interpreters

Need a Sign Language Interpreter for special events? Contact Mill Neck Services Interpreter Referral at ☎(516) 922-3334 (TTY) or ☎(516) 922-3818 (Voice).

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FACULTY POSITION
Department of Television, Photography and Educational Technology
School of Communication
GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

RESPONSIBILITIES: Primary teaching assignment in television production and media studies with undergraduate students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Including advising; teaching production and media studies courses; supervising student video productions, engaging in scholarship and/or creative activity; and providing department, school, university, and professional service.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: Prefer earned M.A. or Ph.D. (but will consider applicants currently enrolled in M.F.A. or Ph.D. programs) in communication or related area, demonstrated excellence in teaching; superior video production skills/experience; record of scholarly research and/or creative activity; and fluency in American Sign Language or a commitment to learning the language.

CONTRACT: Tenure-track, 9-month appointment with possible opportunity for summer employment.

RANK AND SALARY: Rank: negotiable, Salary: commensurate with qualifications and experience.

APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE: June 30, 1998

STARTING DATE: August 16, 1998

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: Send letter of interest, current vitae, video portfolio, and three letters of recommendations to:

Dr. Jane Norman, Chair
Faculty Search Committee
Television, Photography and Educational Technology
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
Office: (202) 651-5115); (202) 651-5124 (FAX);
jnorman@gallua.gallaudet.edu

Gallaudet University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution. Programs and services offered by Gallaudet University receive substantial support from the U.S. Department of Education. Because of its mission of serving deaf and hard-of-hearing students, Gallaudet University encourages applications from individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.